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THE MIGHTY

THOR™



THOR MUST DIE--

--AT THE HAND OF HIS OWN FATHER!

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KEITH & ROZ

When DR. DONALD BLAKE strikes his wooden walking-stick upon the ground, it becomes the mystic hammer MJOLNIR—and the lame physician is transformed into the Norse God of Thunder, Master of the Storm, Lord of the Living Lightning—and heir to the throne of eternal Asgard...

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

ROY THOMAS * KEITH POLLARD & CHIC STONE * C. GAFFORD, COLORIST * JIM SHOOTER
WRITER / EDITOR ILLUSTRATORS JOE ROSEN, LETTERER CONSULTING EDITOR

IF AN EYE OFFEND THEE...!

AS THE LATE GREAT ROD SERLING MIGHT HAVE PUT IT: "PORTRAIT OF A GOD IN TORMENT..."

MAY THE NORN-FATES FORGIVE ME! HATH IT COME, THEN, TO THIS?

MUST I SLAY MINE OWN, MINE ONLY SON-- TO DECIDE THE DESTINY OF ACCURSED MIDGARD*?

I'WOULD BE SLAYING A PART OF MYSELF TO DRIVE HOME THIS MAGIC SPEAR--AND END A LIFE OTHERWISE BEYOND ENDING.

AND YET-- I MUST!

*MIDGARD = EARTH --R.T.

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FOR LONG MOMENTS, AS HE HOLDS HIS MYSTIC WEAPON GUNGMIR POISED ABOVE THOR'S UNCONSCIOUS FORM, ALL-FATHER ODIN LIVES AGAIN THE EPOCHAL EVENTS WHICH HAVE BEFALLEN HIM SINCE HE LEFT THE GLEAMING SPIRES OF ASSGARD, SO RECENTLY, YET A SEVERING ETERNITY AGO.

YET, WHEN ODIN AND ZEUS WOULD HAVE LED THE IMMORTALS OF OLYMPIA IN DESTROYING THE CITY OF THE ETERNALS, IT WAS HIS OWN SON THOR WHO STOOD ATWART THE SKYWARD PATH!

AND SO, LED BY MIGHTY FATHER ZEUS, THE MASTERS OF OLYMPIA FOUGHT BRAVELY AND WELL AGAINST THE INVADERS FROM OLYMPIA...

ON HIS JOURNEY ON EIGHT-NOOVED SLEIPNIR, TO OLYMPIA, OTHERWORLDLY HOMETOWN OF THE GRAECO-ROMAN GODS -- RULED OVER BY ZEUS, LOFTIEST OF SKY-SPIRITS.

HE SEES ANEW THE THRUST OF ACTION BY THE ETERNALS AGAINST THE EARTH-CRABBING ANOTHER SHIP OF THE CELESTIALS...

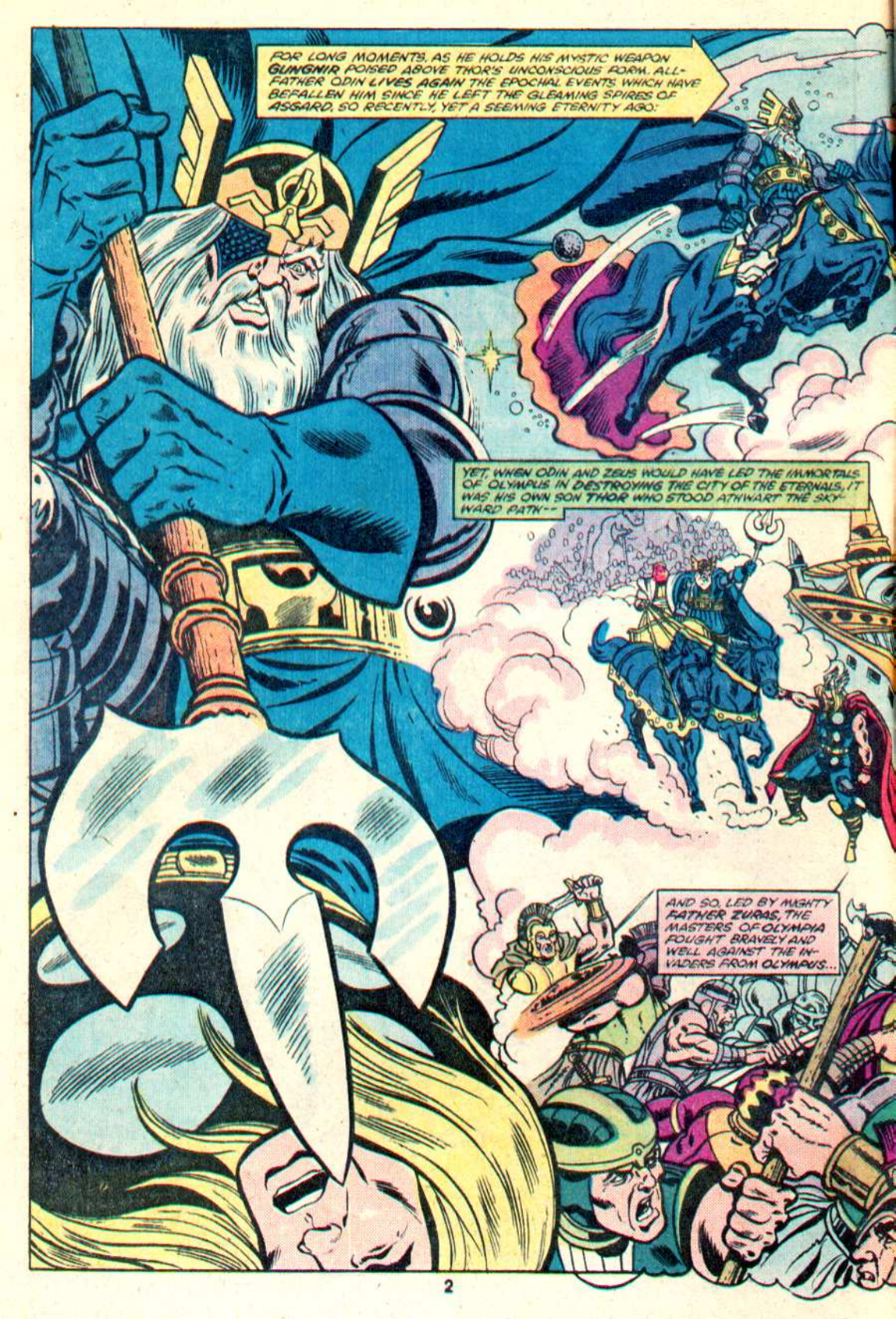
...THOUGH EVEN THE ENILED HEIR OF ASSGARD COULD NOT PREVENT SUCH A MIGHTY THROWN FROM BEGINNING THEIR WORK -- THE SMASHING OF OLYMPIA!

THE UN-MIND THIS WEAKENED THE ETERNALS WERE FORCED TO RETURN TO EARTH, BEFORE THEY HAD CLOSED IN BATTLE WITH THE PRIME CELESTIAL...

AND THEN IN THE FEARFUL CLIMAX OF THIS CLASH OF MYRIAD TITANS, THOR COULD NOT BRAVE HIMSELF TO USE HIS FULL FORCE AGAINST HIS VENGEFUL SIRE...

...THOUGH, EXCEPT FOR THE THREE GRIM BEARDED LEADERS, NO ONE ON EITHER SIDE SEEMED TO KNOW TRULY WHY THEY FOUGHT.

...AND THIS WAS FELLED BY THE HARD-SWINGING HAFT OF THE SPEAR OF HEAVEN!



FOR LONG MOMENTS, AS HE HOLDS HIS MYSTIC WEAPON GUNGNIR POISED ABOVE THOR'S UNCONSCIOUS FORM, ALL-FATHER ODIN LIVES AGAIN THE EPOCHAL EVENTS WHICH HAVE BEFALLEN HIM SINCE HE LEFT THE GLEAMING SPIRES OF ASSARD, SO RECENTLY, YET A SEEMING ETERNITY AGO:

YET, WHEN ODIN AND ZEUS WOULD HAVE LED THE IMMORTALS OF OLYMPIA IN DESTROYING THE CITY OF THE ETERNALS, IT WAS HIS OWN SON THOR WHO STOOD ATHWART THE SKYWARD PATH--

AND SO, LED BY MIGHTY FATHER ZURAS, THE MASTERS OF OLYMPIA FOUGHT BRAVELY AND WELL AGAINST THE INVADERS FROM OLYMPIUS...

HIS JOURNEY, ON EIGHT-HOOVED SLEIPNIR, TO OLYMPIA'S, OTHERWORLDLY HOMELAND OF THE GRAECO-ROMAN GODS-- RULED OVER BY ZEUS, LOFTIEST OF SKY-SPIRITS.

--AS ALL ETERNALS FORM THE AWESOME ENTITY THEY CALL THE UNI-MIND, AND HEAD INTO THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE.

HE SEES ANEW THE THREAT OF ACTION BY THE ETERNALS AGAINST THE EARTH-ORBITING MOTHER SHIP OF THE CELESTIALS--

--THOUGH EVEN THE EXILED NEIR OF ASGARD COULD NOT PREVENT SUCH A MIGHTY THROWS FROM BEGINNING THEIR WORK-- THE SMASHING OF OLYMPIA!

THE UNI-MIND THIS WEAKENED THE ETERNALS WERE FORCED TO RETURN TO EARTH, BEFORE THEY HAD CLOSED IN BATTLE WITH THE PRIME CELESTIAL...

AND THEN, IN THE FEARSOME CLIMAX OF THIS CLASH OF MYRIAD TITANS, THOR COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO USE HIS FULL FORCE AGAINST HIS VENGEFUL SIRE--

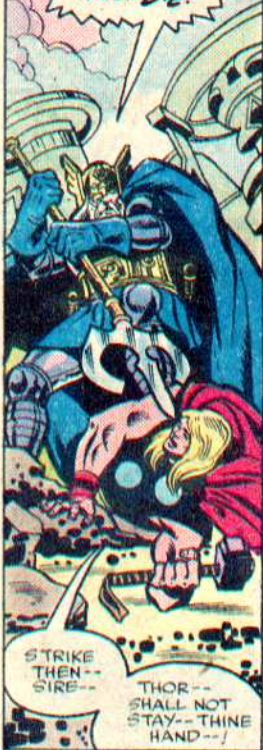
...THOUGH, EXCEPT FOR THE THREE GRIM, BEARDED LEADERS, NO ONE ON EITHER SIDE SEEMED TO KNOW TRULY WHY THEY FOUGHT.

--AND THIS WAS FELLED BY THE HARD-SWING HART OF THE SPEAR OF HEAVEN!

NOW ODIN SPEAKS AGAIN, IN A VOICE AS FULL OF FRUSTRATION AS OF FURY...

ODIN HATH SWORN AN OATH-- TAKEN A VOW MORE HOLY E'EN THAN THE BOND 'TWIN'T FATHER AND SON!

AND, FOR THE SAKE OF THAT OATH-- THOR MUST DIE!



STRIKE THEN-- SIRE--

THOR-- SHALL NOT STAY-- 'THINE HAND--!

SUDDENLY, A STRANGE LOOK PASSES ACROSS THE ALL-FATHER'S CRAGGY FACE-- LIKE A SHADOW, LIFTED AFTER A LONG ETERNITY...

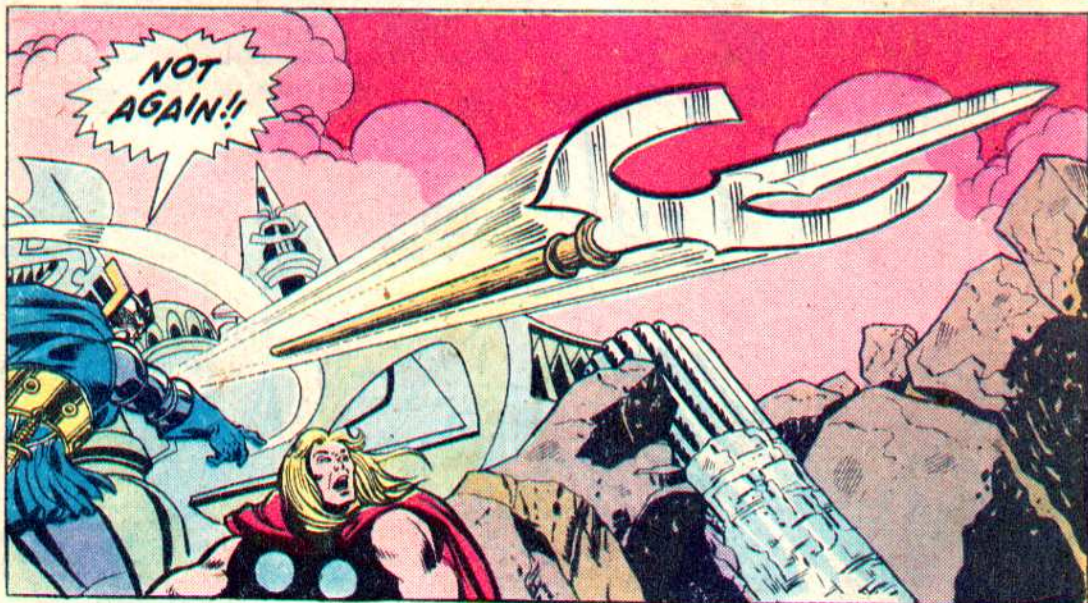
WHAT? WHAT'S THIS? WHAT IS'T I DO?



SLAY MINE OWN SON-- WITH THREE POINTED GUNGNIR?!

YAY! LET THE SKIES ABOVE ME TREMBLE-- THE MOUNTAINS SHAKE WITH RAGE--

-- I'LL NOT SLAY MINE ONLY BLOODSON AGAIN!



NOT AGAIN!!

LIKE A RIVENING THUNDERBOLT, THE ENCHANTED SPEAR HURTTLES WITH A MIGHTY ROAR ABOVE THE CRUMBLING RUINS OF OLYMPIA--



--AND BE THEY GODS OR ETERNALS, TITANS OR MUTATES-- THE AWESOME ANTAGONISTS CEASE THEIR STRUGGLES-- LOOK UP-- AND WONDER!



SIRE-- THOU HAST THROWN AWAY GUNGNIIR, WHICH BE SYMBOL OF THY POWER AS TRULY AS MJOLNIR BE OF MINE!

WILT THOU TELL ME NOW-- WHY THOU HAST LED THE GODS OF OLYMPUS HITHER?

NAY, THAT HATH NOT CHANGED, MY SON.

I CAN TELL THEE NAUGHT.



YET, THOU DIDST SPEAK OF REFUSING TO SLAY ME "AGAIN"!

PRESS ME NOT, GODLING!

WHAT DID THY WORDS MEAN, SIRE-- FATHER?

HEAR ONLY THIS!



"IF AN EYE OFFEND THEE, PLUCK IT OUT!"

"IT SHALL NE'ERMORE BE PART OF THEE-- YET IT SHALL E'ER BE PART OF THEE."

"FOR, IT HATH KNOWN WHAT THOU KNOWEST-- SEEN WHAT THOU HAST TURNED TO SEE!"

LET READ THIS RIDDLE, HE WHO MAY!



FOR MINE OWN SELF, I GO NOW TO RETRIEVE MY WORLD-CONQUERING SPEAR.

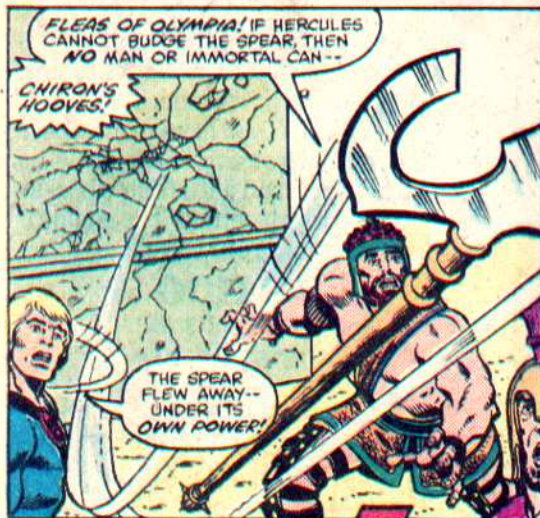


UNNN! IS THIS BE TRULY-- BEYOND ALL BELIEVING!

EVEN THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES CANNOT DRAW THE ASGARDIAN'S WEAPON FROM THIS STONE WHERE IT STRUCK.

HAA! MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK ONE OF US ETERNALS TO HELP YOU, DEMI-GOD.

FOR AGREE WE ONCE WE IKARIS.



FLEAS OF OLYMPIA! IF HERCULES CANNOT BUDGE THE SPEAR, THEN NO MAN OR IMMORTAL CAN--

CHIRON'S HOOVES!

THE SPEAR FLEW AWAY-- UNDER ITS OWN POWER!



NAV, ETERNAL-- NOT OF ITS OWN POWER, BUT OF MINE!

FOR, VERILY, THIS SPEAR BE BUT THE EXTENSION OF THE ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD.



IF THOU HAST QUITE DONE, LORD ODIN, WITH IMPRESSING US ALL WITH THY POWER:

WE OF OLYMPIA WANT NO BATTLE, ZEUS-- AT LEAST NOT WITH YOU, BUT ONLY WITH THE CELESTIALS, WHO MEAN TO JUDGE WHETHER THE EARTH SHALL LIVE OR DIE.

LET US BEGIN THE BATTLE ANEW-- THAT BATTLE WHICH WE OF OLYMPUS DID INITIATE MORE AT THY BEHEST THAN FOR OUR OWN SAKE!

STILL, IF BATTLE IT MUST BE-- THEN BATTLE IT SHALL BE!

WELL SPOKEN, ZURAS. THOU ART A FAR WORTHIER FOEMAN THAN E'ER I DID THINK THOU WOULDST MAKE.

WELL, LORD ODIN? WILT THOU TAKE UP THY SPEAR AGAIN-- E'EN IF IT MUST CLOSE WITH THINE OFFSPRING'S HAMMER?





BAIT ME *NOT*, GOLDMANE-- OR, FRIENDS THOUGH WE BE--!

THOR CAN HAVE *NO* FRIENDS WHO WOULD STRIKE AGAINST HIS NEWFOUND BROTHERS OF OLYMPIA.

HOLD YE BOTH! THERE BE NO CAUSE FOR FURTHER COMBAT.

ARE YOU CERTAIN OF THAT, ZEUS?



AYE-- FOR, 'TIS THE FATE OF EARTH WHICH IS AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER, IS IT NOT-- A THING WHICH MATTERS *NOT* TO US OF OLYMPIUS.

THEN WHY DID YOU RESPOND TO ODIN'S CALL FOR AN ALLIANCE AGAINST US?

MORE FOR REASONS OF OLD RESENTMENT THAN FOR ANY GOOD REASON, I NOW DO REALIZE...



BUT NOW, 'TIS TIME WE DEPARTED FROM THIS PLACE-- HOPEFULLY, NEER AGAIN TO CLASH WITH THE SPIRITUAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ZURAS.

NOR I WITH THEE ODINSON.

'TIS MY WISH ALSO, HERCULES--

WHAT? MUST WE FLEE OLYMPIA, OUR TAILS BETWEEN OUR LEGS?



PAY NO MIND TO THE GODLING WHOSE ONLY REASON FOR BEING IS WAR, OLYMPIANS-- AND THOR.

KNOW YE, ZURAS, THAT THIS WAS THE DAY OF ZEUS' FOLLY!

LONG HATH THE MERE KNOWLEDGE OF THE VERY EXISTENCE OF OLYMPIA BEEN A THORN IN MY MIND'S FLESH-- FOR THAT EXISTENCE SEEMED TO MOCK THE FORMER GLORIES OF OLYMPIUS, IN DAYS OF YORE.

BUT NOW, I SEE THAT, THOUGH LORD ODIN DID PLAY UPON SUCH FEELINGS, WE HAVE *NO* QUARREL WITH THEE AND THY KIND.

EONS AGO, WE OF OLYMPIUS MADE THE DECISION TO QUIT THIS MUDBALL PLANET, WHEN THOSE WHO DID BELIEVE IN US CEASED TO DO SO.

WE LEFT IT THEN TO ITS OWN DEVICES...



...AND AS OF THIS MOMENT, WE DO SO AGAIN...

...FOR ALL TIME!



THE GODS OF OLYMPUS ARE GONE... THEIR MENACE ENDED.

TIME, THEN, TO BIND OUR WOUNDS... AND REBUILD OUR RUINED CITY.

TELL ME, ZURAS...



HAST THOU, THEN, RENOUNCED THY PLAN TO CHALLENGE THE CELESTIALS WHO SPANNED THY RACE?

WILT THOU JOIN WITH ME, THEN, TO SAVE MIDGARD FROM THEIR FIFTY-YEAR JUDGMENT?

NO, ASGARDIAN.



WE ETERNALS SHALL GO OUR OWN WAY, IN OUR ATTEMPT TO SAVE THIS PLANET WE ALL SHARE.

YET, IT MAY BE THAT, WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE-- WE TOO SHALL BE FORCED TO BEND THE KNEE BEFORE THE CELESTIALS.



NOW, I MUST REJOIN MY PEOPLE... WHY SUDDENLY SO GRIM, THOR?

WHEN ZURAS DID SPEAK OF "BENDING THE KNEE"-- IT DID REMIND ME OF SOMETHING.

HE DIDN'T MEAN THOSE WORDS... NOT REALLY.

HE'S MERELY SHAKEN BY RECENT EVENTS.



NOW, IF YOU'LL PARDON ME-- I MUST HELP MY FELLOW ETERNALS.

AYE, VERILY.



AND FORTUNATE THOU ART, E'EN IN ADVERSITY, IKARIS... THAT THOU HAST FELLOWS-- AND BE NOT CAST OUT FROM THINE OWN KIND, AS I BE!

STILL, MY FATHER DID REFUSE TO SMITE ME WITH GUNGNIR.



BUT WHY-- WHEN 'TIS PAINFULLY OBVIOUS THAT HE LED THE GODS OF OLYMPUS HERE TO FULFILL WHATEVER UNHOLY VOW HE MADE A THOUSAND YEARS AGONE, TO THE CELESTIALS.*



HE SPOKE AS IF HE WOULD HAVE REVEALED MORE TO ME-- BUT COULD NOT--

--AS IF HE'D STRUCK ME DOWN BEFORE-- BUT I REMEMBER NOT.

THEN-- THERE BE THE RIDDLE HE SPOKE-- IT'S TALK OF EYES--!

*ISSUE #288. --ROY.

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING



OF COURSE! ODIN DID PLUCK OUT AN EYE-- TO GAIN SOME UNKNOWN BIT OF KNOWLEDGE FROM MIMIR THAT FLAMING HEAD OF HATRED!

'TIS NO LONGER PART OF HIM-- YET MAYHAP 'T WILL ALWAYS BE, AS THE RIDDLE DID SAY.

WHAT ELSE WAS IT THE ALL-FATHER SAID?--

*ISSUE 274
--ROY.

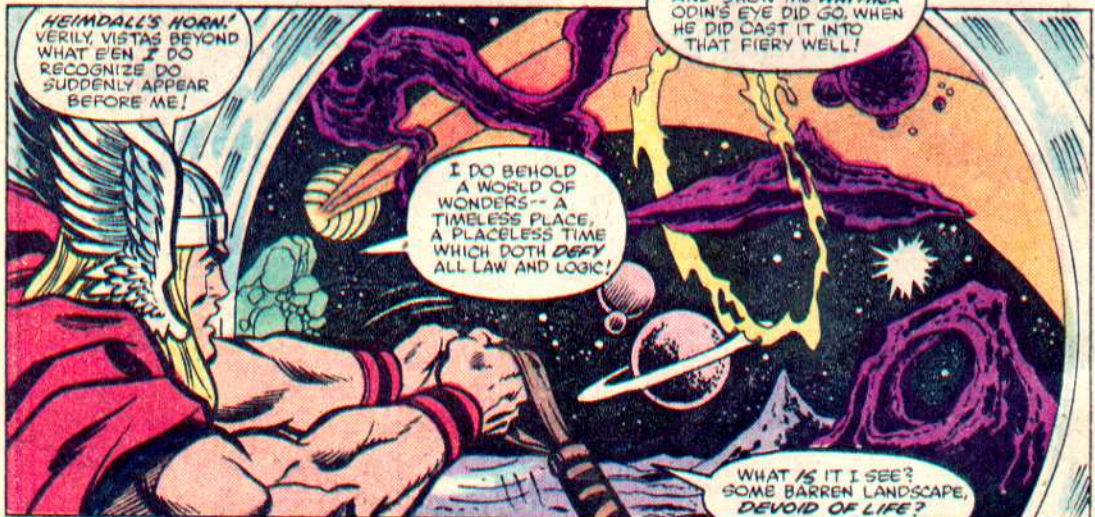


YES!! "IT HATH KNOWN WHAT THOU KNOWEST-- SEEN WHAT THOU HAST TURNED TO SEE!"

THEN-- HEAR ME, MJOLNIR, THOU MYSTIC MALLET!

THOU WERT MY FATHER'S GIFT SUPREME TO ME.

OPEN WIDE THE GATES OF TIMELESS SPACE-- AND SHOW ME WHITHER ODIN'S EYE DID GO, WHEN HE DID CAST IT INTO THAT FIERY WELL!



HEIMDALL'S HORN! VERILY, VISTAS BEYOND WHAT E'EN I DO RECOGNIZE DO SUDDENLY APPEAR BEFORE ME!

I DO BEHOLD A WORLD OF WONDERS-- A TIMELESS PLACE, A PLACELESS TIME WHICH DOTH DEFY ALL LAW AND LOGIC!

WHAT IS IT I SEE? SOME BARREN LANDSCAPE, DEVOID OF LIFE?



BUT NAY-- THERE BE DWELLINGS, AS IF TORN FROM SOME CHILDREN'S FAIRYTALE ON MIDGARD!

YET, HAVE I FOUND THE PLACE I SEEK-- OR DOTH MINE HAMMER PLAY GAMES WITH ME?

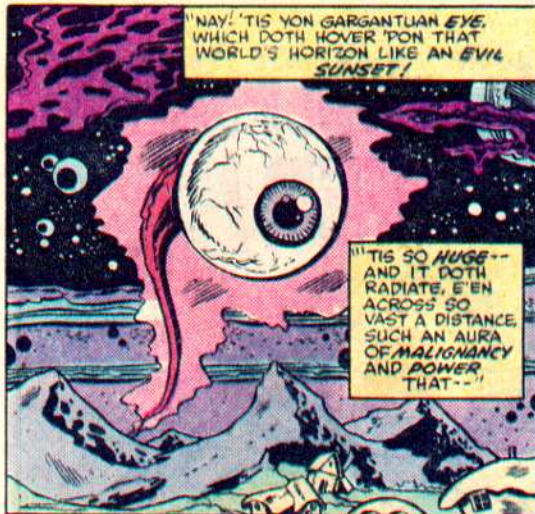


"HOLD! NOW, LIVING BEINGS DO ISSUE FORTH FROM THE THATCHED HUTS-- DWARVES, YET NOT THAT KIND WHICH I HAVE SEEN BEFORE!

"AND-- I HEAR THEM CRY OUT IN STARK TERROR--

FLEE! FLEE! IT COMES AGAIN!

"EH? IS IT THOR THEY ESPY, SOMEHOW, OR--?"



"NAY! 'TIS YON GARGANTUAN EYE, WHICH DOT'H HOVER 'PON THAT WORLD'S HORIZON LIKE AN EVIL SUNSET!

"'TIS SO HUGE-- AND IT DOT'H RADIATE, E'EN ACROSS SO VAST A DISTANCE, SUCH AN AURA OF MALIGNANCY AND POWER THAT--!"



BLOOD OF YOURS! NOW IT DOT'H HURL WITHERING FIRE UPON THE LAND-- SO THAT THE DWARFLINGS RUN IN FEAR!

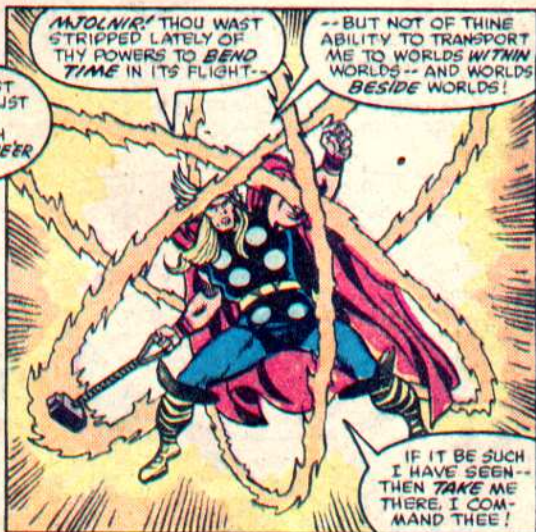
YONDER EYE MAY OR MAY NOT BE THE THING I SEEK--

YET I CAN-- NOT LET THEM PERISH!



AND, IF 'TIS MY FATHERS EYE, SOMEHOW GROWN GIGANTIC AND TERRIBLE--

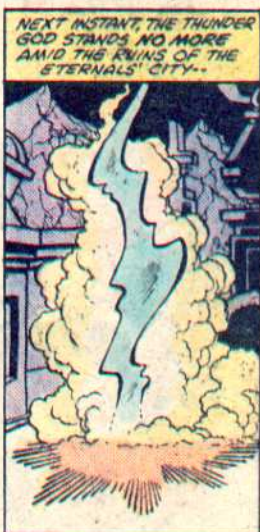
-- THEN MOST SURELY I MUST NOT LET IT WREAK SUCH HAVOC WHEREVER IT BE.



MJOLNIR! THOU WAST STRIPPED LATELY OF THY POWERS TO BEND TIME IN ITS FLIGHT--

-- BUT NOT OF THINE ABILITY TO TRANSPORT ME TO WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS-- AND WORLDS BESIDE WORLDS!

IF IT BE SUCH I HAVE SEEN-- THEN TAKE ME THERE, I COMMAND THEE!



NEXT INSTANT THE THUNDER GOD STANDS NO MORE AMID THE RUINS OF THE ETERNALS' CITY--

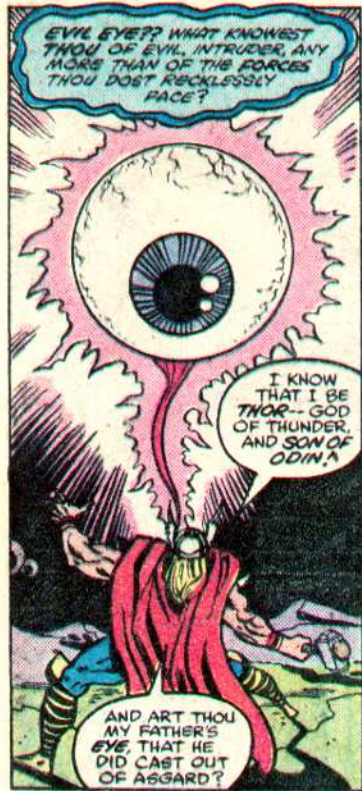


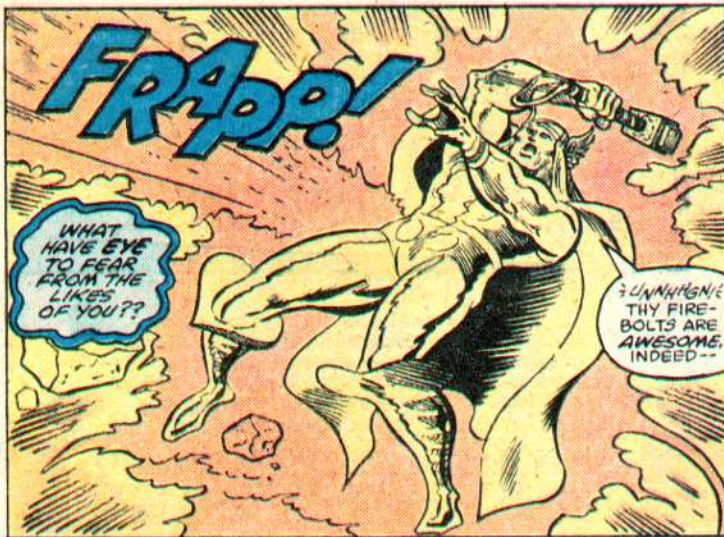
-- BUT FEELS HIS ENCHANTED URU HAMMER PULLING HIM LIKE A TORRENT-CAUGHT LEAF THROUGH THE SPACE BETWEEN THE WORLDS WE KNOW.

TRULY THIS BE MADNESS WITHOUT PARALLEL!

I KNOW NOT E'EN WHY I DID THINK THAT MJOLNIR COULD FIND THE EYE OF ODIN FOR ME-- LET ALONE IF IT HATH DONE SO.

YET, I DO FEEL SO STRONGLY THAT THE ANSWERS I SEEK SHALL BE FOUND IN YON NETHER SPHERE TOWARD WHICH I'M DRAWN--





FRAPP!

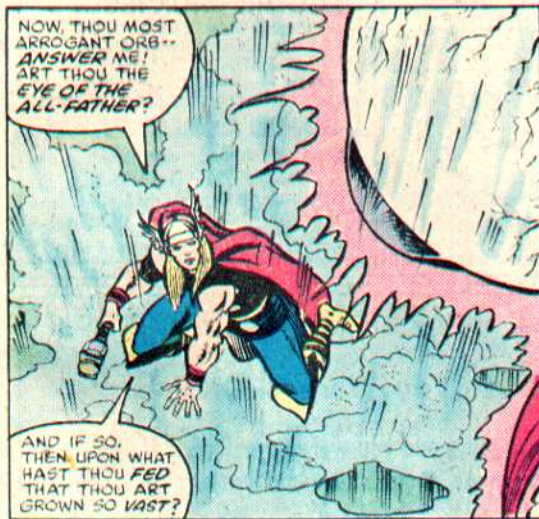
WHAT HAVE EYE TO FEAR FROM THE LIKES OF YOU??

UNWANNING! THY FIRE-BOLTS ARE AWESOME, INDEED--



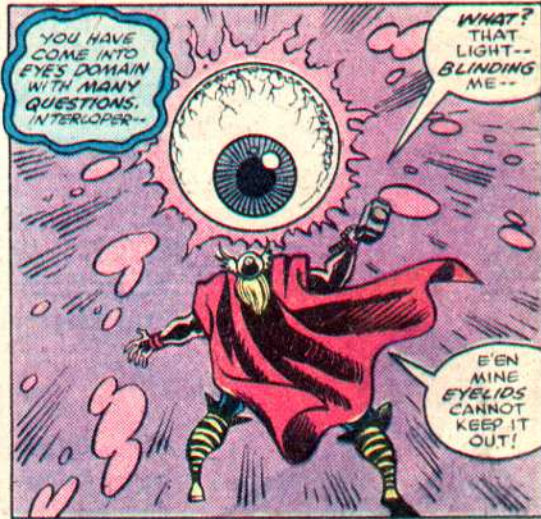
STILL, A FIRE MAY BE SMOTHERED-- BY RAIN!

THUMP! THUMP!



NOW, THOU MOST ARROGANT ORG-- ANSWER ME! ART THOU THE EYE OF THE ALL-FATHER?

AND IF SO, THEN UPON WHAT HAST THOU FED THAT THOU ART GROWN SO VAST?



YOU HAVE COME INTO EYES DOMAIN WITH MANY QUESTIONS, INTERLOPER--

WHAT? THAT LIGHT-- BLINDING ME--

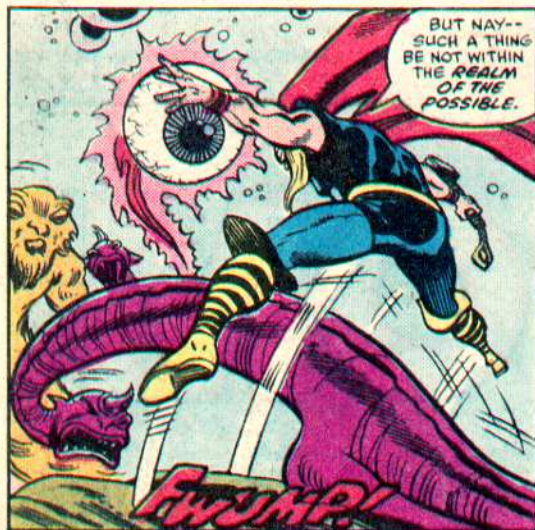
E'EN MINE EYELIDS CANNOT KEEP IT OUT!



PERHAPS THESE MAY ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS BETTER THAN EYE!

MONSTERS-- SUCH AS NE'ER WERE SEEN ON EARTH OR IN ASGARD, BUT ONLY IN SOME DEMON'S NIGHTMARE!

THEY SPRING UP FROM THE VERY SOIL-- AS IF BIRTHED BY THE VERY RAIN I DID BRING!



BUT NAY--
SUCH A THING
BE NOT WITHIN
THE REALM
OF THE
POSSIBLE.

FWUMP!



THERE
BE BUT
ONE OTHER
ANSWER.
THEN--



-- AND MJOLNIR
HATH PROVED IT
THE TRUE ONE!



THEY BE
IMAGES
ALL--



-- CAST
LIKE VENGEFUL
SPEARS BY
YON EVIL EYE!

PREPARE, THEN, TO BE
CONQUERED, ORB!
THEY'LL KEEP ME FROM
THEE NO LONGER.

PERHAPS
THEY WILL
NOT...



... BUT EYE
THINK THIS
ONE SMALL!

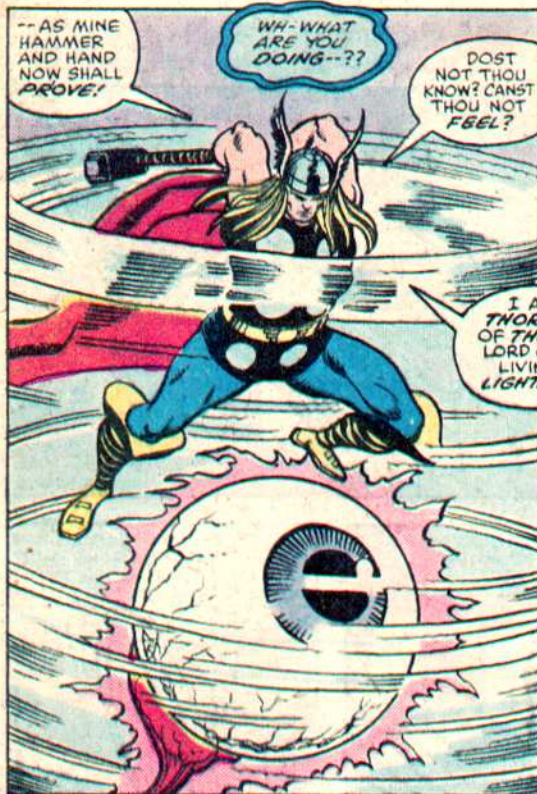
G-NARAP

GOLDEN
APPLES OF
IDUNN!

THE FINAL MONSTER I DID
SUPPOSE A MIRAGE-- WAS
INSTEAD A LEATHERY THING
OF FLESH AND BLOOD!

IT HATH
GRIPPED
MINE
HAMMER--
MY VERY
LIMBS--





-- AS MINE HAMMER AND HAND NOW SHALL PROVE!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING--??

DOST NOT THOU KNOW? CANST THOU NOT FEEL?

I AM THOR-- GOD OF THUNDER-- LORD OF THE LIVING LIGHTNING--

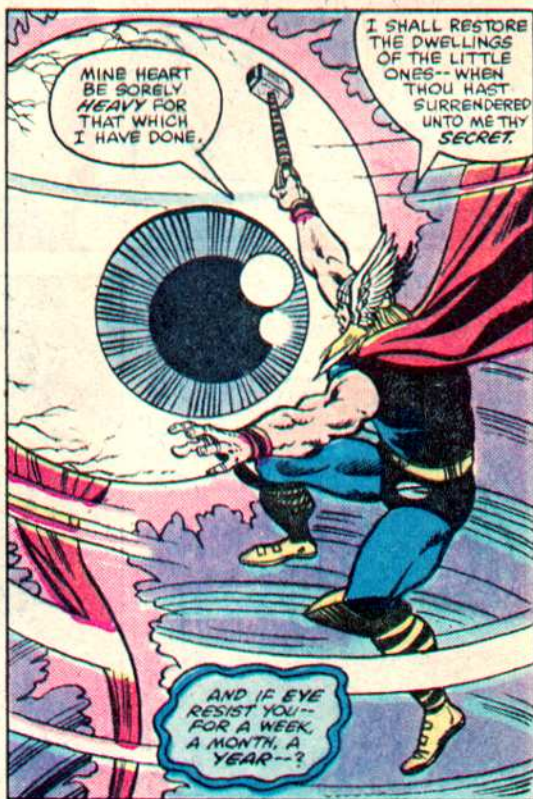


-- AND MASTER OF THE SHRIEKING STORM WINDS!

WITHIN BARE INSTANTS, THE WHIRLING MJOLNIR HAS CREATED A MIGHTY VORTEX-- AN IRRESISTIBLE TORNADO OF MOTION IN THIS WORLD BETWEEN THE WORLDS WE KNOW--



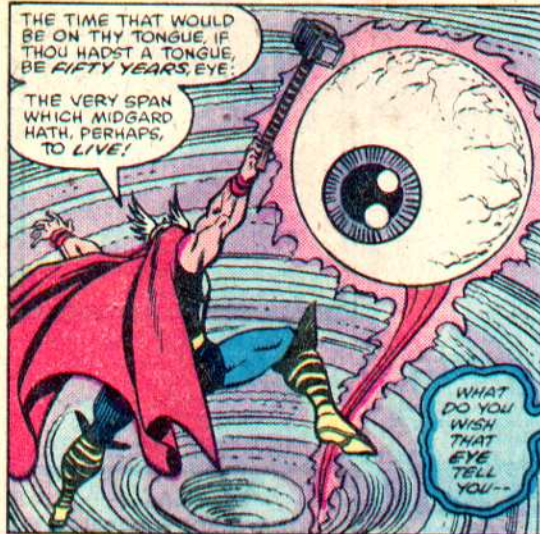
-- AND THE DWARFLINGS LEARN, TO THEIR SORROW, THAT MANY A SPHERE MAY BE HALF DESTROYED IN THE SAVING.



MINE HEART BE SORELY HEAVY FOR THAT WHICH I HAVE DONE.

I SHALL RESTORE THE DWELLINGS OF THE LITTLE ONES-- WHEN THOU HAST SURRENDERED UNTO ME THY SECRET.

AND IF EYE RESIST YOU-- FOR A WEEK, A MONTH, A YEAR--?



THE TIME THAT WOULD BE ON THY TONGUE, IF THOU HADST A TONGUE, BE FIFTY YEARS, EYE.

THE VERY SPAN WHICH MIDGARD HATH, PERHAPS, TO LIVE!

WHAT DO YOU WISH THAT EYE TELL YOU--

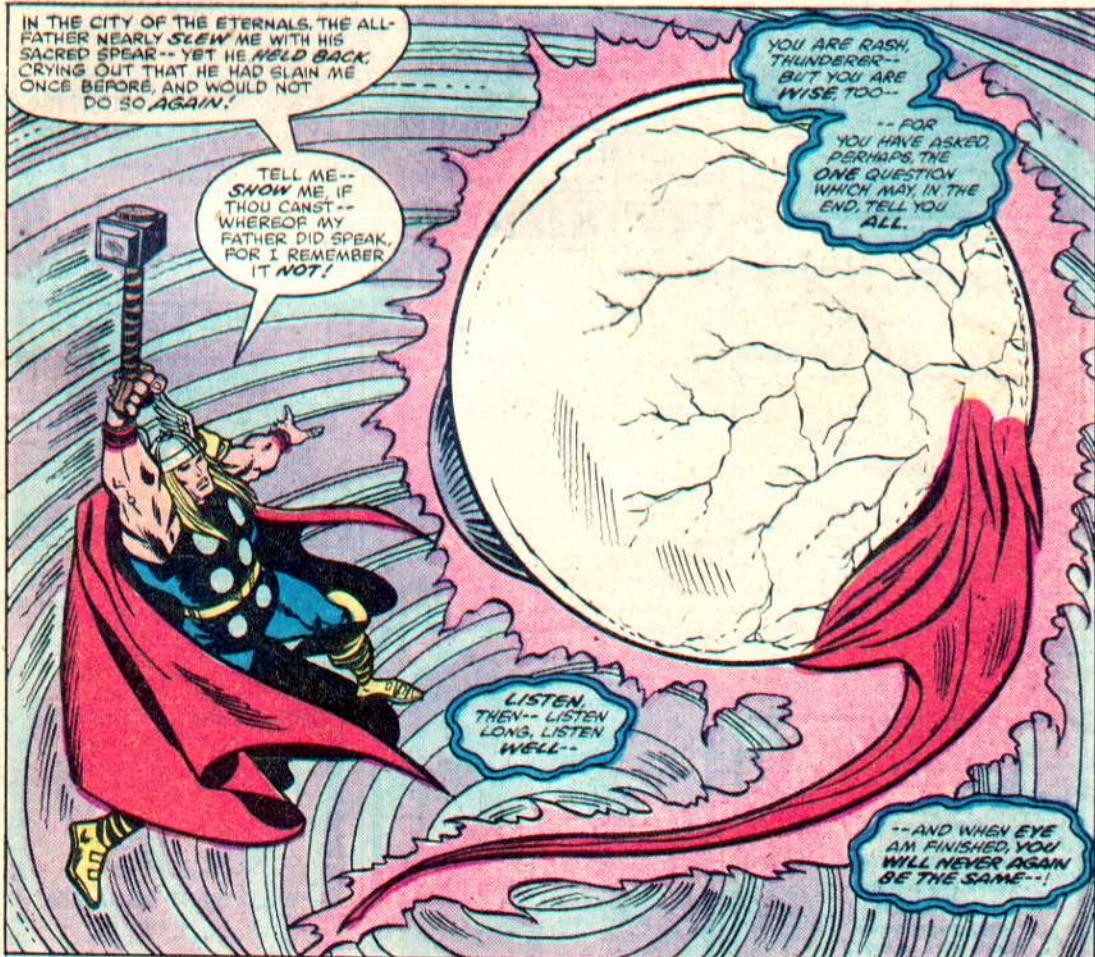


FAIR ENOW-- THOUGH THE CHOICE BE A LIVING TORMENT FOR ME.

A VISION SHOWED ME MY FATHER ODIN BOWING DOWN BEFORE THE CELESTIALS, A THOUSAND YEARS AGONE-- BUT MAY!

ANOTHER MATTER DOETH LIE AT THE VERY HEART OF THE HURRICANE WHICH DOETH RAGE WITHIN ME MORE FERCELY THAN THIS THAT ROARS WITHOUT.

--BUT, KNOW YOU THAT EYE SHALL ANSWER ONE QUESTION, AND ONE ONLY!



IN THE CITY OF THE ETERNALS, THE ALL-FATHER NEARLY SLEW ME WITH HIS SACRED SPEAR-- YET HE HELD BACK, CRYING OUT THAT HE HAD SLAIN ME ONCE BEFORE, AND WOULD NOT DO SO AGAIN!

TELL ME-- SHOW ME, IF THOU CANST-- WHEREOF MY FATHER DID SPEAK, FOR I REMEMBER IT NOT!

YOU ARE RASH, THUNDER-- BUT YOU ARE WISE, TOO--

--FOR YOU HAVE ASKED, PERHAPS, THE ONE QUESTION WHICH MAY, IN THE END, TELL YOU ALL.

LISTEN, THEN-- LISTEN LONG, LISTEN WELL--

--AND WHEN EYE AM FINISHED, YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN BE THE SAME--!

NEXT ISSUE: **CYCLES AND SPACE GODS!**

Dear Roy,

I decided to write you concerning issue #287 when I was half way through. Then I hit the letters page and saw Matt Kaufman's letter, and I have to deal with that first.

Matt says he's going to be angry if your storyline contradicts Christian concepts of the Creation, or at least his ideas of such concepts. He falls into two very narrow-minded misconceptions in saying this. The first is one that seems to be common to many readers of comics, and I quote: "If the Marvel Earth is to stay the same as the real Earth..."

Why should it? Comicbooks, Matt, are part of a body of literature called FICTION. Fiction has absolutely no responsibility to be consistent with the real world. It MUST remain internally consistent, and it SHOULD have something to say about the real world, but it does not have to conform to reality in any way.

Besides, we are not speaking here of objective reality, but of Matt Kaufman's conception of same. Suppose the storyline were devoutly Christian: Would Buddhists be offended? (Or would Matt, if the storyline were Buddhist?)

Matt's other mistake is one common to people of many religious persuasions who think that their way is THE way, but don't understand that way at all. I will simply say that any Christian who "doesn't give a damn" for atheists, or for any other group of people, is no understander of Christian teachings.

Finally, it is ironic that Matt can accept the evolutionary concept now, while mouthing the same old anti-evolutionists' arguments against yet another concept which offends him. Sadly, Matt, you're not only wrong, but (ho-hum) you've said nothing new.

Oh, the ORIGINAL reason for this letter? Page 14, panel 1: "noisome" does not mean "noisy"; it means "foul-smelling." Geeze, Roy! Read your Lovcraft. And while you're at it, tell the rest of the Bullpen that "erstwhile" means "formerly." That one gets tossed around even more than "noisome."

Gosh, hardly any space left to tell you you're doing everything else right!

Robin Kincaid
7 Wall St.
Coventry, CT 06238

Glad you slipped it in anyway, Robin, if it's what you sincerely feel. Roy'll accept the blame for letting "noisome" creep into the story in THOR #287—though who really knows for sure? Things might have got a bit sweaty during the Olympians' frolics! The "rest of the Bullpen," though, are on their own; Roy already knows what "erstwhile" means.

Thanks, incidentally, to you and to several other THOR readers (most notably Michael Samerdyke, below; Gary Lawson of Bellevue, Washington; Dan Ferranti of Lexington, Maine; Matt Jones of Wappingers Falls, N.Y.; and Thomas Murray of Victoria, Br. Columbia, Canada) for your reasoned responses to and disagreements with Matt Kaufman's letter, printed in #287. Thus far, we've received no letters defending his point of view, or we'd perhaps have tossed in one of those, just to even things up. For ourselves, we stand pretty well with the opinions printed on this page... and hope that Matt K. will take another look at the current THOR saga.

We'd say it's "just a comicbook"—but there are quite a few devotees out there who'd take issue with us on THAT, as well!

Dear Roy,

The Thor/Eternals saga is getting better and better. This issue you not only showed us what was happening to the Asgardians, but also introduced Hero, a character not unlike the brooding, doomed hero/villains of Michael Moorcock. What made the whole issue was that Hero was strong enough to trash all the Eternals, but Thor could still stand up to him. I'm glad Hero will return next issue, for too often you've abandoned promising villains, such as Ereshkigal and Kro, after only one issue. Hopefully we'll see more of Hero. He's the perfect foe for Thor: both strong and noble.

By the way, Roy, I like the occasional poetical allusion in THOR ("the world is too much with us," etc.) and in the CONAN mags. Don't get carried away with it, however, and please don't use the "Lay on, Macduff" line again.

Michael Samerdyke
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Maple Hts., Ohio 44137

We won't, Mike — though actually, Stan (and later Roy and another writer or two, perhaps) usually altered Shakespeare's Macbethian line playfully to "LEAD on, Macduff." And don't worry: You'll be seeing more of Hero in these crowded pages, ere long.

Dear Mythos-Makers,

Just thought I'd drop a line thanking whoever was responsible for arranging to have Keith Pollard take over the penciling chores on THOR. It's always been one of my favorite mags, and it's reassuring to know that with this new change the book will retain its high quality. Thanks.

Tad Ray Christiansen
(No Address Given)

You're wonderfully welcome, T.R. Kinetic Keith's debut on THOR was due to convergent thinking: Roy Thomas' in California, and Jim Shooter's in New York. Oh yes — not to mention K. Pollard himself, who had to agree to take over the fersluggier thing in the middle of one of the most complex plotlines in years! And we couldn't be more delighted that Thorophiles of the world have instantaneously taken him to their Bifrosted bosoms.

Dear Roy, Keith, and Chic,

I think I deserve a no-prize. In THOR #287, Ikaris refers to his father Virako's "death." But, as all fans of the Eternals know, an Eternal cannot die; his/her atoms can only be "scattered." Therefore, Virako did not die; at some future date he may be reassembled in some way.

Also, on page 17, panel 5, you say the Deviant bomb in ETERNALS #13 had been secreted aboard the Celestials' mother ship. Once again, this is a misrepresentation of the facts. The bomb was not aboard the Celestials' ship, but aboard a Deviant spacecraft directed AT the mothership. However, the One Above All perceived the complete situation and transferred the Forgotten One into the Deviant craft from his own ship, where the F.O. then destroyed the bomb, and — well, the rest is Marvel history.

Now that I have explained that, I should mention that THOR #286 and #287 have been superb! I just loved them! I am an avid Eternals freak, so naturally I was pleased to see them back in action. But I was hardly expecting anything so good. You are finally returning to the Thor of old. Two fantastic battles in two issues, first against the super-mutate Metabo and then the free-for-all with Hero. I eagerly await #288. I also love the way you've interwoven the plots between Odin and company, back in Asgard, and Thor back on Midgard (earth).

Keith and Chic, what can I say? I especially liked the rendition of Fafnir on page 16, panel 3, this issue. Needless to say, all other art was well done also. I applaud your effort, gentlemen.

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The no-prize is yours on both counts, Michael, though it was primarily lack of space to explain, rather than real ignorance, that pushed Roy into such inadequate and eventually erroneous explanations.