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THE
MIGHTY

THOR™

WHAT LIES BEHIND--
**THE DOOR
TO THE
MIND'S
DARK EYE?**



pollard
&
LAYTON



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!**

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THOR HAS JOURNEYED TO A DIMENSIONAL
NETHERWORLD--- THERE TO FORCE THE
LOST EYE OF ODIN TO YIELD UP ITS
BANEFUL SECRETS.
BUT, LITTLE DOES OUR TEMPEST-TOSSING
THUNDER GOD SUSPECT THAT ONE OF THOSE
SECRETS WILL BE--

THE **TWILIGHT OF SOME GODS!**

WHAT DO
YOU WISH
THAT EYE
TELL YOU?

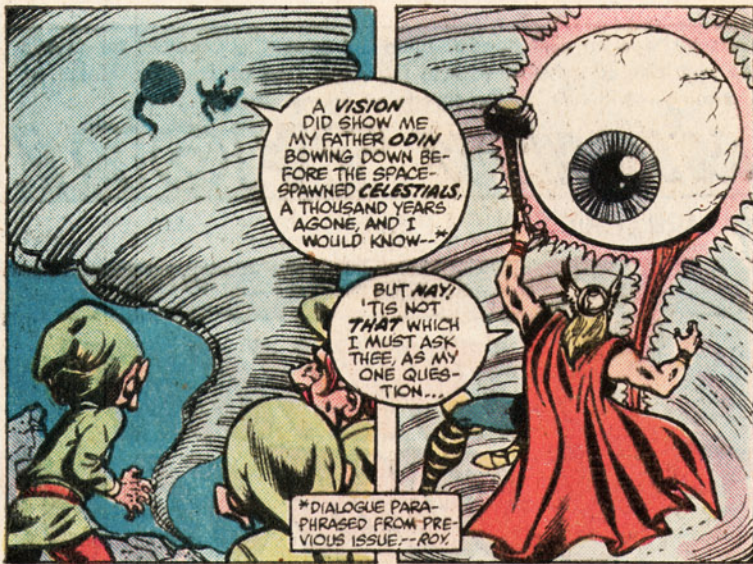
BUT, KNOW YOU
THAT EYE SHALL
ANSWER ONE
QUESTION, AND
ONE ONLY!

FAIR ENOW--
THOUGH THE
CHOICE OF
QUESTIONS BE
A LIVING
TORMENT
UNTO ME!

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO
MARK GRUENWALD &
RALPH MACCHIO
FOR SOME MULTIVERSAL
BOM MOTS

LF659

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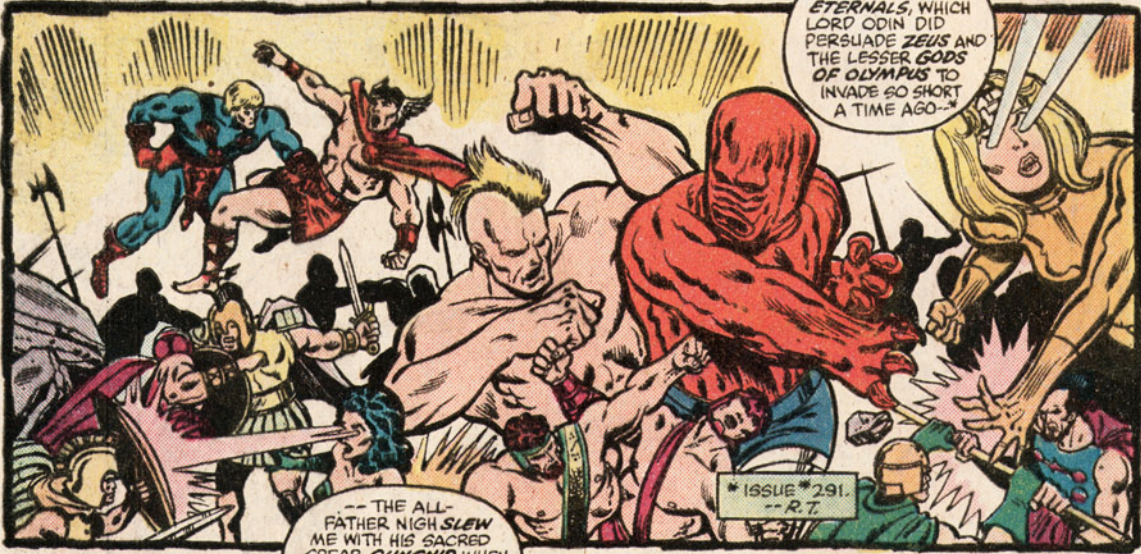
A VISION DID SHOW ME MY FATHER ODIN BOWING DOWN BEFORE THE SPACE-SPAWNED CELESTIALS, A THOUSAND YEARS AGONE, AND I WOULD KNOW--

BUT MAY! 'TIS NOT THAT WHICH I MUST ASK THEE, AS MY ONE QUESTION--

*DIALOGUE PARAPHRASED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE--ROY.

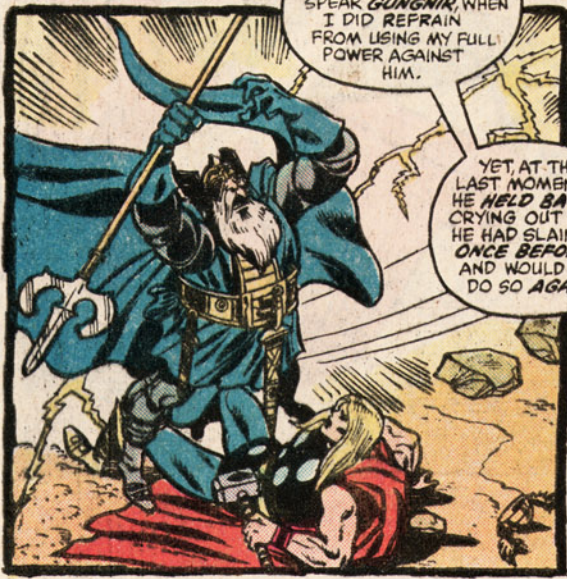


'TIS ANOTHER MATTER WHICH DOTTH LIE AT THE VERY HEART OF THE HURRICANE WHICH DOTTH RAGE WITHIN ME, MORE FIERCELY THAN THIS WHICH ROARS WITHOUT!



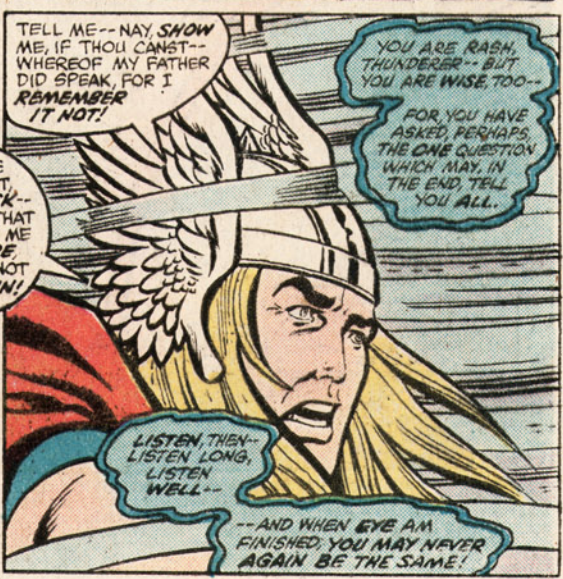
IN THE CITY OF THE ETERNALS, WHICH LORD ODIN DID PERSUADE ZEUS AND THE LESSER GODS OF OLYMPUS TO INVADE SO SHORT A TIME AGO--

*ISSUE #291.
--R.T.



-- THE ALL-FATHER NIGH SLEW ME WITH HIS SACRED SPEAR GUNGNIR, WHEN I DID REFRAIN FROM USING MY FULL POWER AGAINST HIM.

YET, AT THE LAST MOMENT, HE HELD BACK-- CRYING OUT THAT HE HAD SLAIN ME ONCE BEFORE AND WOULD NOT DO SO AGAIN!



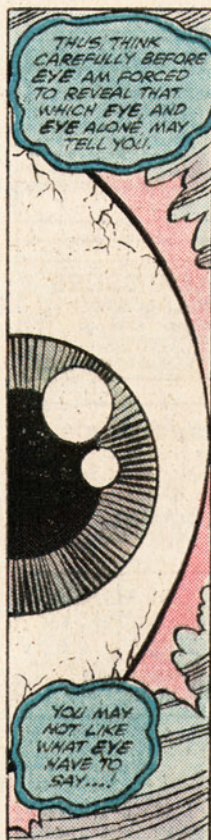
TELL ME-- NAY, SHOW ME, IF THOU CANST-- WHEREOF MY FATHER DID SPEAK, FOR I REMEMBER IT NOT!

YOU ARE RASH, THUNDERER-- 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 I AM FINISHED, YOU MAY NEVER AGAIN BE THE SAME!

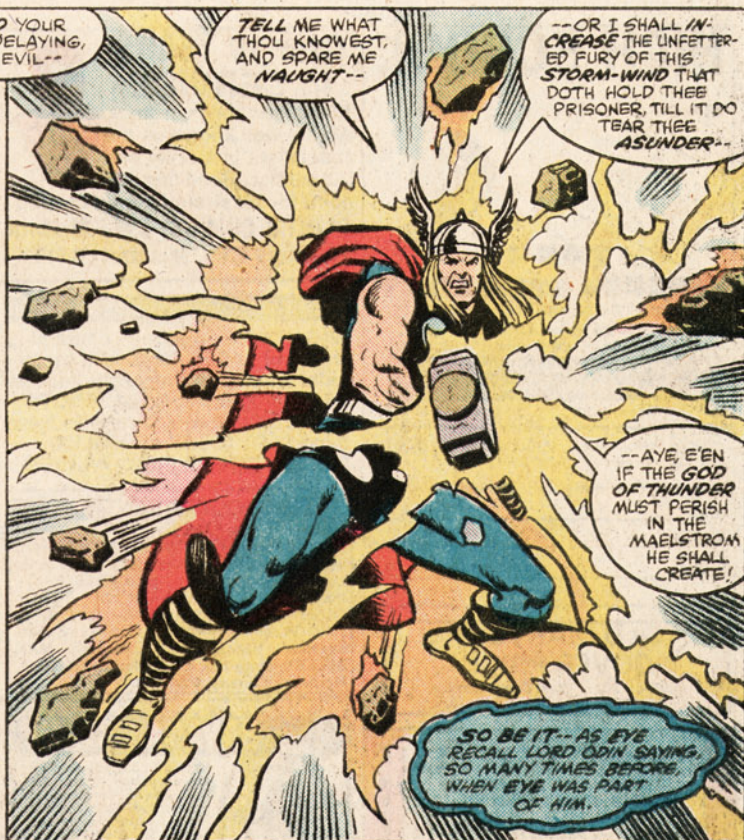


THU'S THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE EYE AM FORCED TO REVEAL THAT WHICH EYE AND EYE ALONE MAY TELL YOU.

YOU MAY NOT LIKE WHAT EYE HAVE TO SAY....!



CONFOUND YOUR ETERNAL DELAYING, ORB OF EVIL--

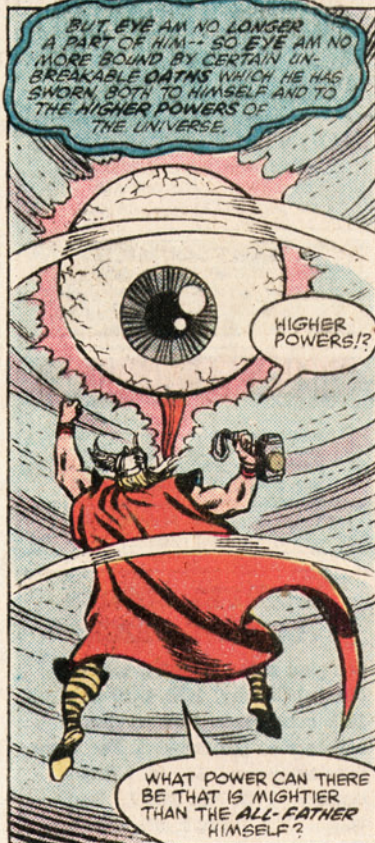


TELL ME WHAT THOU KNOWEST, AND SPARE ME NAUGHT--

--OR I SHALL INCREASE THE UNFETTERED FURY OF THIS STORM-WIND THAT DOTTH HOLD THEE PRISONER, TILL IT DO TEAR THEE ASUNDER--

--AYE, E'EN IF THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST PERISH IN THE MAELSTROM HE SHALL CREATE!

SO BE IT-- AS EYE RECALL LORD ODIN SAYING, SO MANY TIMES BEFORE, WHEN EYE WAS PART OF HIM.



BUT EYE AM NO LONGER A PART OF HIM-- SO EYE AM NO MORE BOUND BY CERTAIN UNBREAKABLE OATHS WHICH HE HAS SWORN, BOTH TO HIMSELF AND TO THE HIGHER POWERS OF THE UNIVERSE.

HIGHER POWERS!?

WHAT POWER CAN THERE BE THAT IS MIGHTIER THAN THE ALL-FATHER HIMSELF?



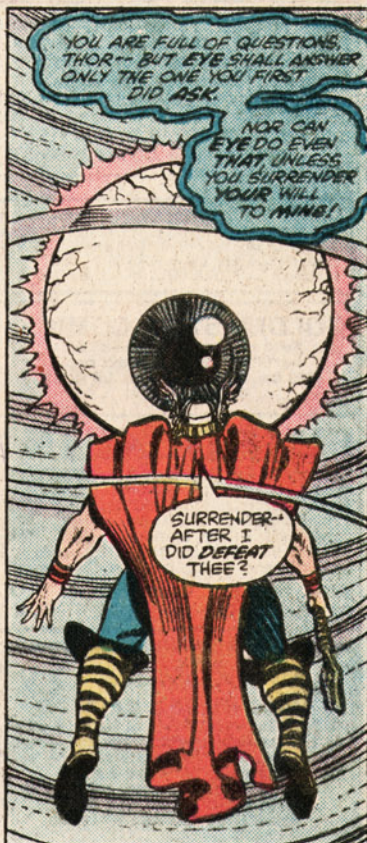
SURELY, THOU SPEAKEST NOT OF THUNDERBOLT-HURLING ZEUS-- NOR E'EN OF THE CELESTIALS, THOSE COSMIC ENIGMAS WHO DO CLAIM 'T WAS THEY DID MAKE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

OR BE THAT THY DIRE SECRET, EYE OF ODIN?

ARE THE CELESTIALS INDEED THE CREATORS OF MANKIND THEY DO HOLD THEMSELVES TO BE?

BUT THEN WHAT OF OUR LEGENDS, WHICH SAY THAT THE GODS OF ASGARD DID FASHION MAN AND MIDGARD?

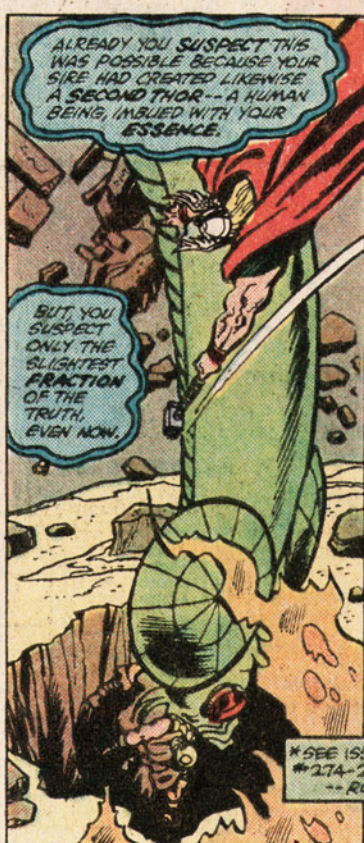
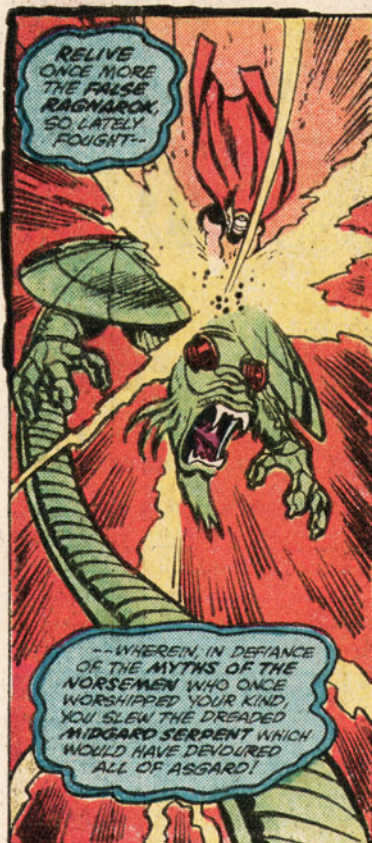
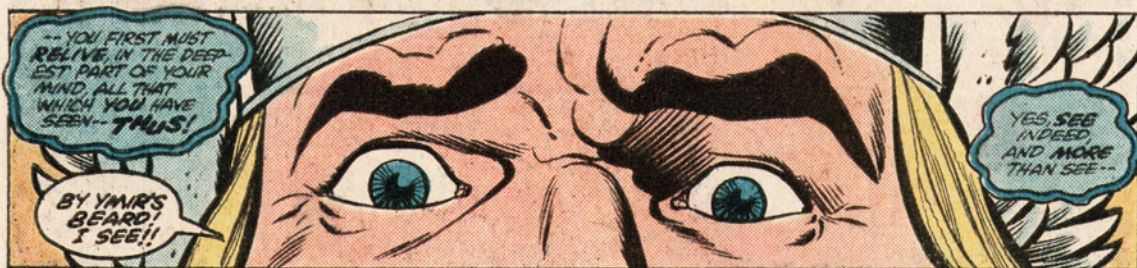
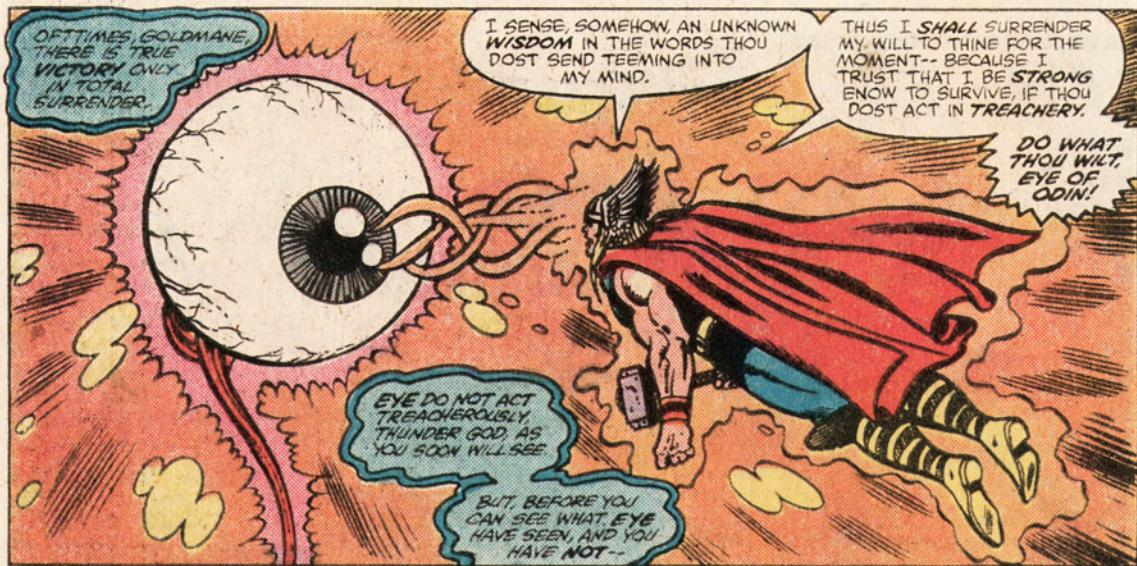
AND WHAT OF THE LEGENDS WHICH GIVE THAT GLORY TO OLYMPUS?



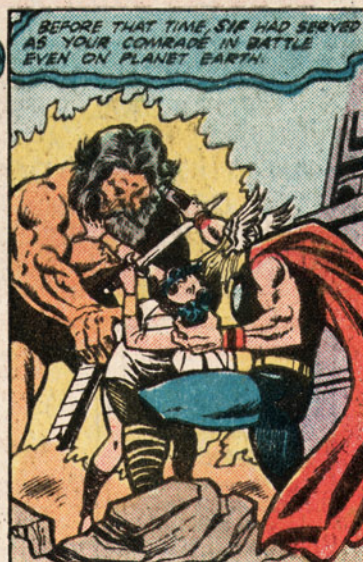
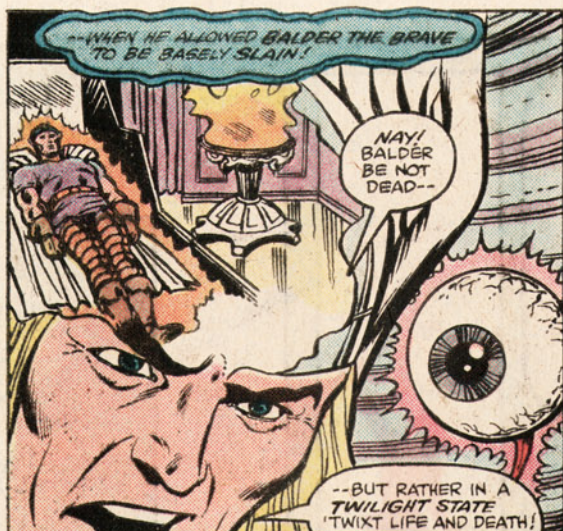
YOU ARE FULL OF QUESTIONS, THOR-- BUT EYE SHALL ANSWER ONLY THE ONE YOU FIRST DID ASK.

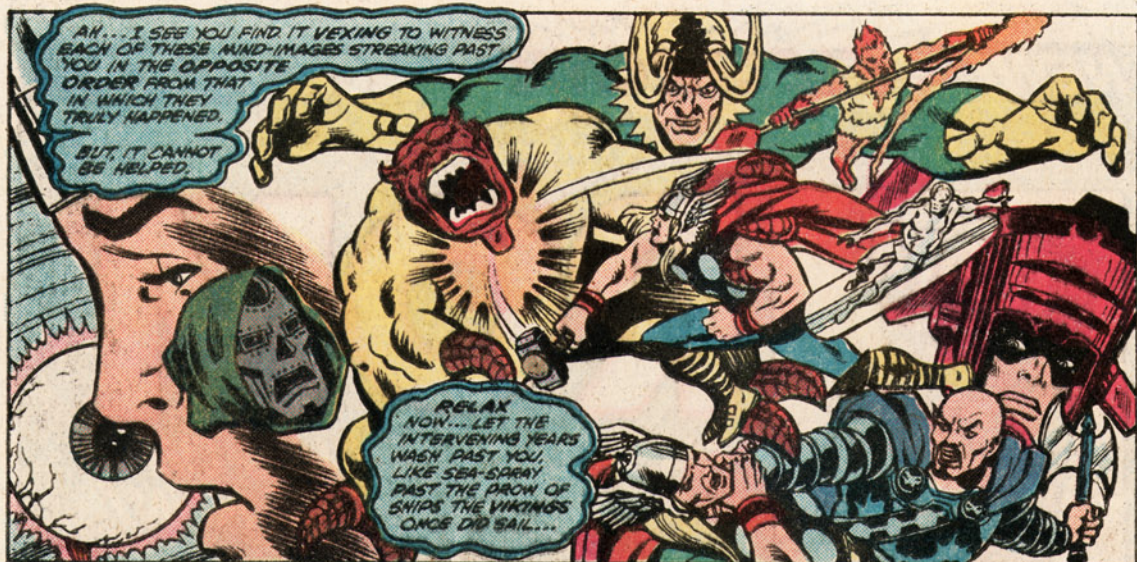
NOR CAN EYE DO EVEN THAT UNLESS YOU SURRENDER YOUR WILL TO MINE!

SURRENDER-- AFTER I DID DEFEAT THEE?



*SEE ISSUES #274-278.
--ROY.





AN... I SEE YOU FIND IT VEXING TO WITNESS EACH OF THESE MIND-IMAGES STREAKING PAST YOU IN THE OPPOSITE ORDER FROM THAT IN WHICH THEY TRULY HAPPENED.

BUT, IT CANNOT BE HELPED.

RELAX NOW... LET THE INTERVENING YEARS WASH PAST YOU, LIKE SEA-SPRAY PAST THE PROW OF SHIPS THE VIKINGS ONCE DID SAIL....



...TILL YOU BEHOLD YOURSELF, EMBRACING FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE LADY SIF, WHO HAS BECOME YOUR BELOVED!



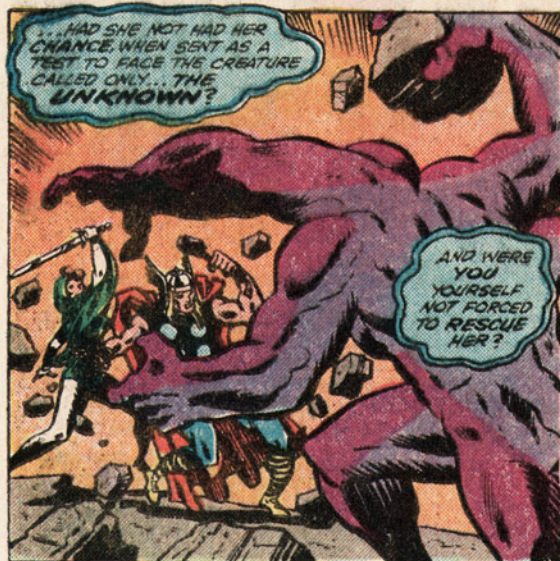
LORD ODIN HAD JUST CAUSED YOU TO FORGET THE MORTAL JANE FOSTER WHOM HE HAD LONG FORBIDDEN YOU TO LOVE...

...AND SENT HER HURLING BACK TO EARTH...



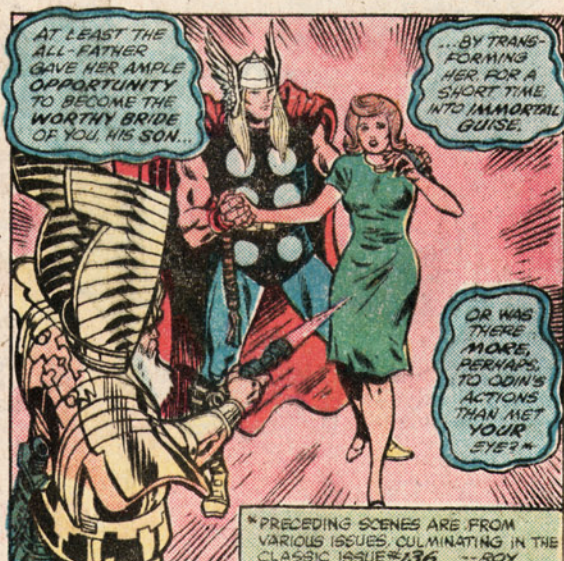
...AFTER SHE HAD PROVED SHE LACKED THE COURAGE TO BECOME A TRUE GODDESS OF ASGARD, AND HAD ALL BUT PERISHED.

THINK NOT TOO HARSHLY OF YOUR SIRE, HOWEVER THUNDER GOD, AFTER ALL...



...HAD SHE NOT HAD HER CHANCE, WHEN SENT AS A TEST TO FACE THE CREATURE CALLED ONLY... THE UNKNOWN?

AND WERE YOU YOURSELF NOT FORCED TO RESCUE HER?



AT LEAST THE ALL-FATHER GAVE HER AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME THE WORTHY BRIDE OF YOU, HIS SON...

...BY TRANSFORMING HER, FOR A SHORT TIME, INTO IMMORTAL GUISE.

OR WAS THERE MORE, PERHAPS, TO ODIN'S ACTIONS THAN MET YOUR EYE?

*PRECEDING SCENES ARE FROM VARIOUS ISSUES, CULMINATING IN THE CLASSIC ISSUE #136. --ROY

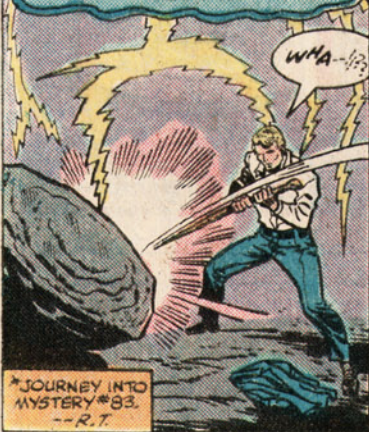
NOW, BEHOLD A SCENE EYE CAN SENSE SEEMS ALIEN TO YOU NOW. THOSE DAYS WHEN YOU FOUGHT PRIMARILY ON EARTH, AND THOUGHT OF YOURSELF AS ONE OF THOSE CALLED... A SUPERHERO.

YOU FOUGHT BOTH ALONE, AND WITH THOSE WHO CALLED THEMSELVES AVENGERS...



...THOUGH EVEN THEN, THERE WERE GODS AMONG BOTH FRIENDS AND FOES

STILL FURTHER BACK-- AND SUDDENLY YOU MUST BE STUNNED TO SEE YOUR ASSGARDIAN FORM VANISHED-- TRAPPED, FOR YEARS, INSIDE THE MORTAL FORM OF DR. DONALD BLAKE.*



*JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83.
--R.T.

FOR SOME TIME, YOU WONDERED WHERE YOU, THE GOD OF THUNDER, REPOSED BEFORE THAT DAY WHEN A LAME PHYSICIAN FOUND A STRANGE WALKING-STICK IN A SCANDINAVIAN CAVE.



WERE YOU REALLY BLAKE... OR WAS HE TRULY YOU?

YOU FOUND YOU HAD NO REAL MEMORIES AS DONALD BLAKE GOING BACK FURTHER THAN THE DAY YOU SUDDENLY APPEARED AS A STUDENT AT THE STATE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.



LATER, YOU REMEMBERED WHY...

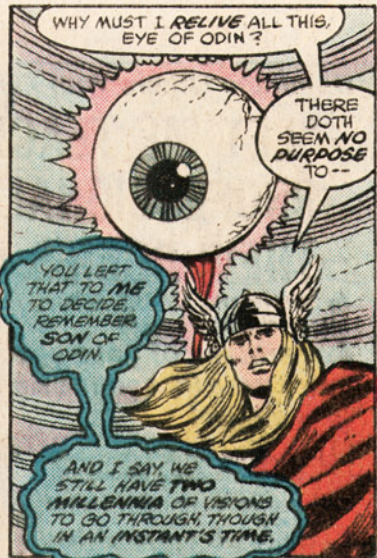


...WHEN LORD ODIN LIFTED THE VEIL, AND REVEALED IT WAS HE WHO HAD SENT YOU TO THE WORLD YOU CALL MIDGARD...

...TO TEACH YOU HUMILITY, HE SAID.



THOUGH THOU ART SUPREME IN THY POWER AND THY PRIDE, THOU MUST KNOW WEAKNESS... THOU MUST FEEL PAIN!



WHY MUST I RELIVE ALL THIS, EYE OF ODIN?

THERE DOETH SEEM NO PURPOSE TO --

YOU LEFT THAT TO ME TO DECIDE, REMEMBER, SON OF ODIN.

AND I SAY, WE STILL HAVE TWO MILLENNIA OF VISIONS TO GO THROUGH, THOUGH IN AN INSTANT'S TIME.

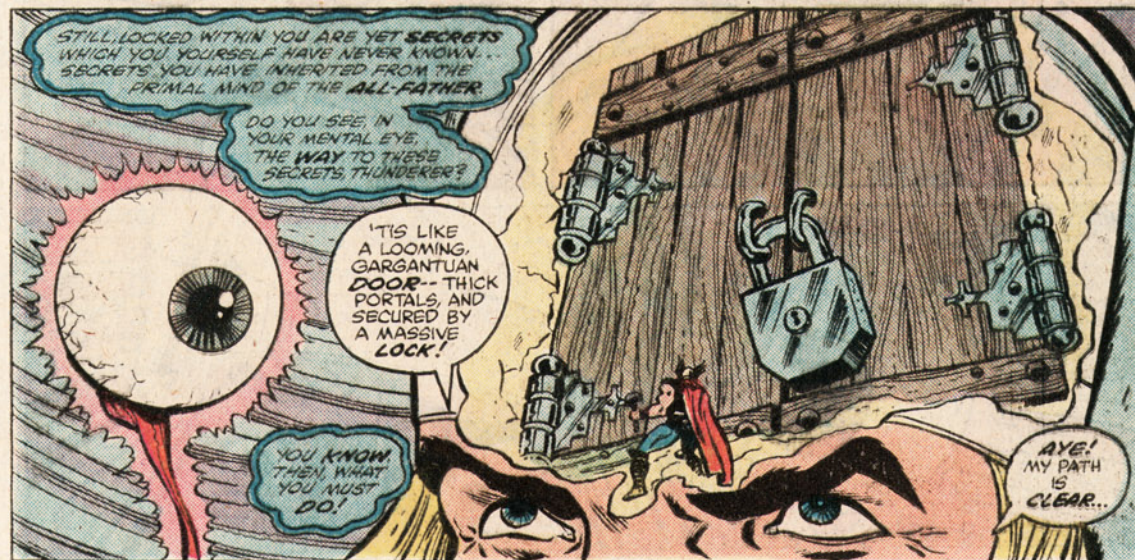
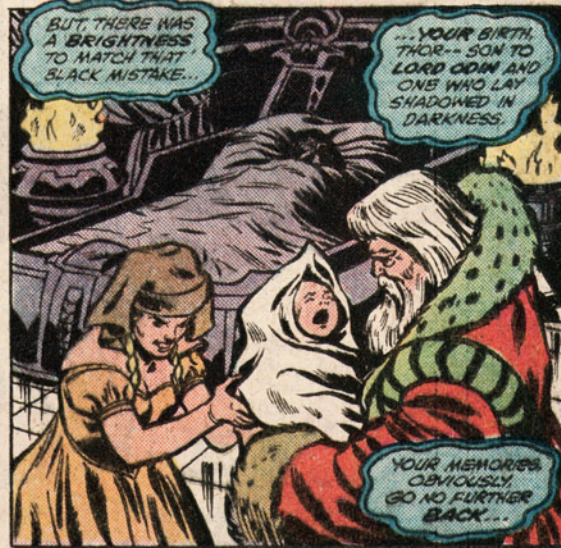
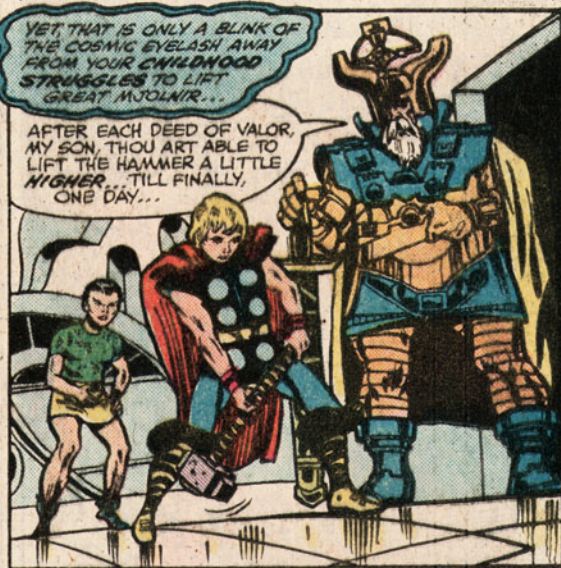


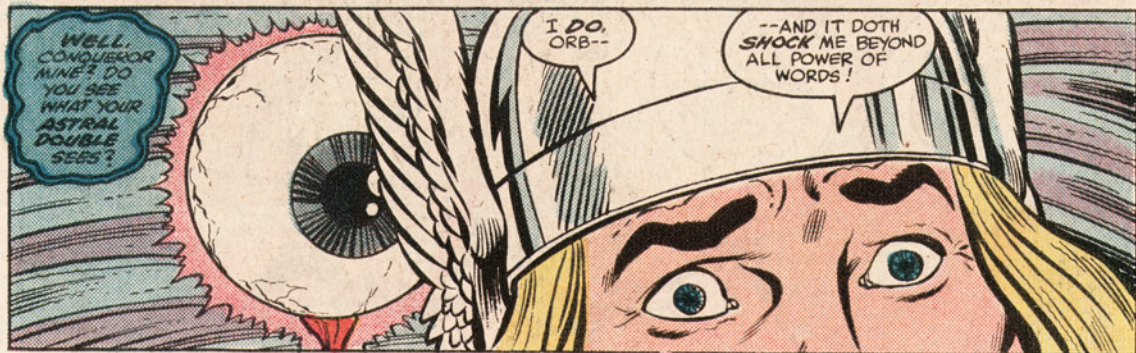
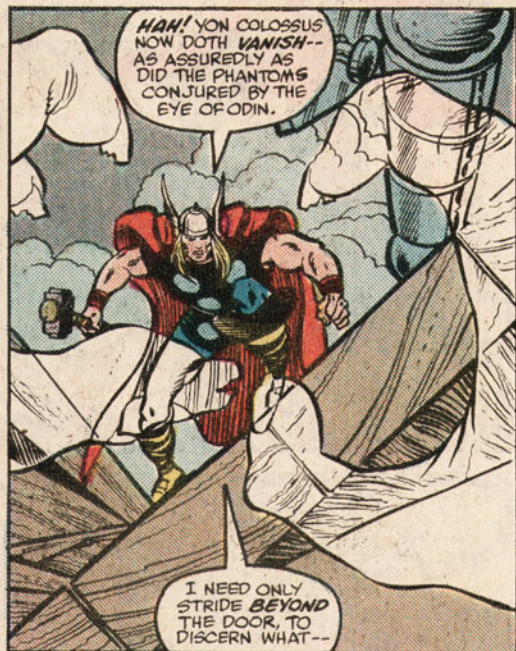
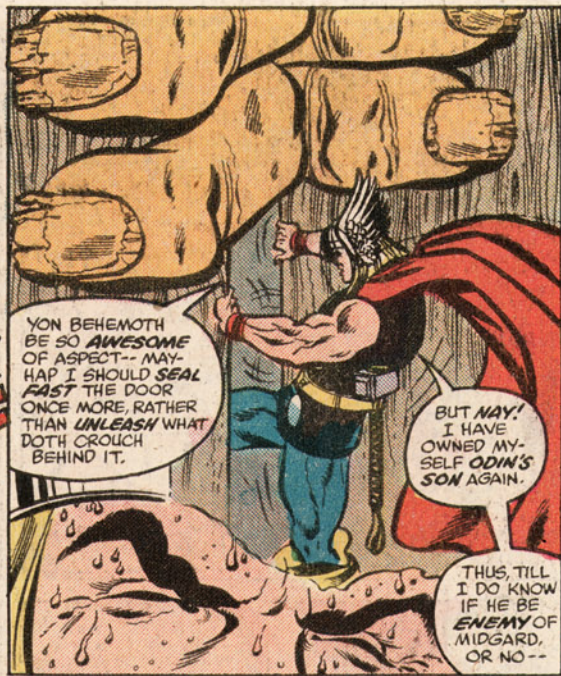
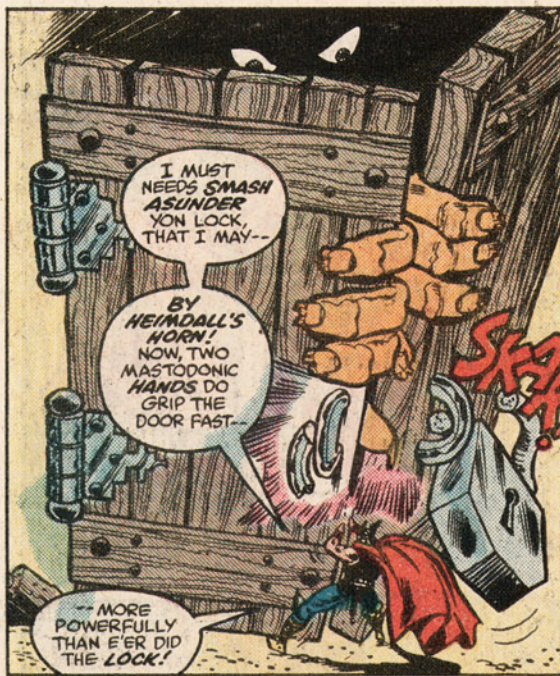
AH, AND WHAT VISIONS THEY ARE, OF WHAT ADVENTURES!

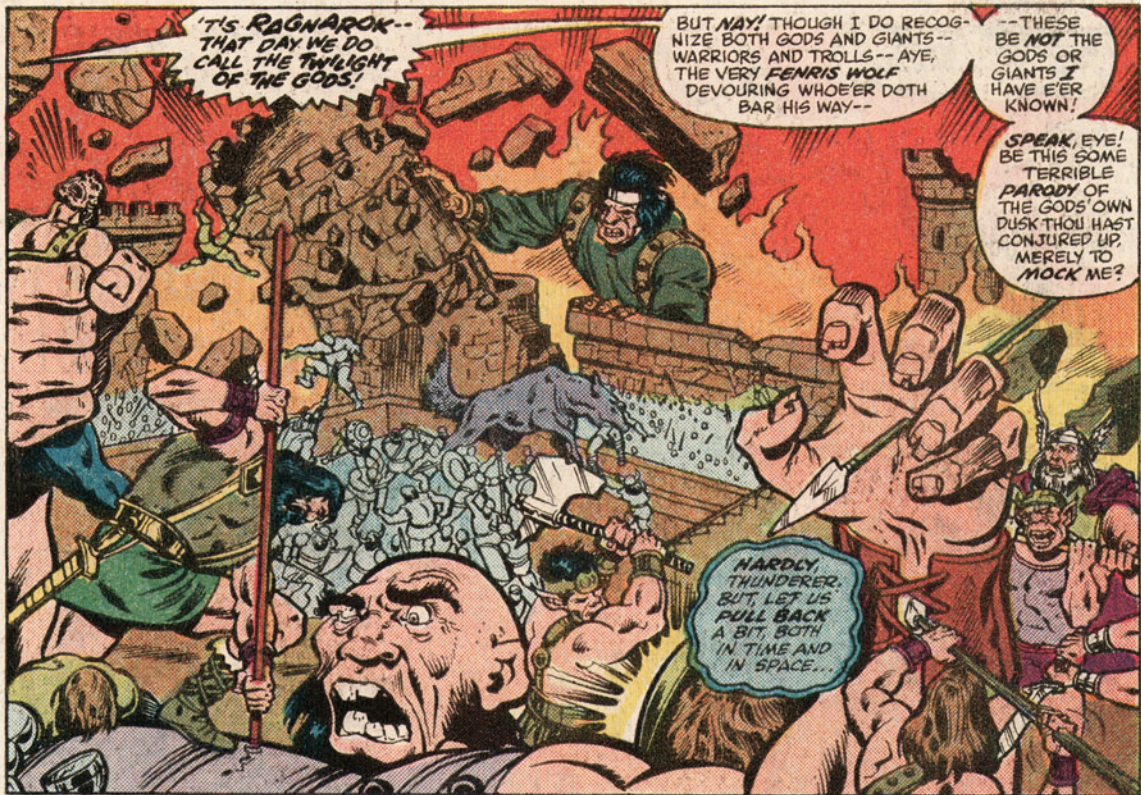
IT WOULD ALMOST BE WORTH BECOMING A MERE PART OF ODIN AGAIN, TO RELIVE THEM MYSELF.

YOUR EXPLOITS THEN CONCERNED THEMSELVES, IN THE MAIN, WITH THE REALMS OF GODS AND OF GODLIKE BEINGS...

...AS YOU REVELED IN THE FULL BLOOM OF YOUR OWN GODHOOD, AND IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS ONLY A LITTLE LESSER THAN YOURSELF!







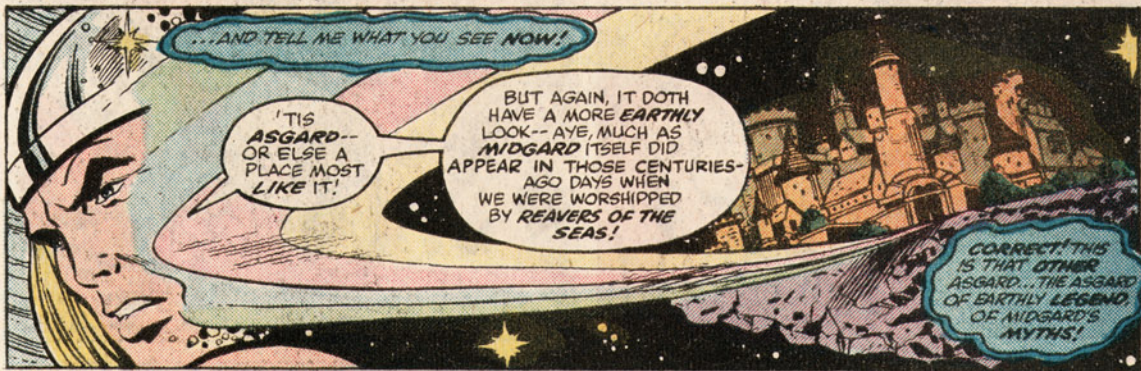
'TIS RAGNAROK--
THAT DAY WE DO
CALL THE TWILIGHT
OF THE GODS!

BUT NAY! THOUGH I DO RECOG-
NIZE BOTH GODS AND GIANTS--
WARRIORS AND TROLLS-- AYE,
THE VERY FENRIS WOLF
DEVOURING WHO'EER DOTH
BAR HIS WAY--

--THESE
BE **NOT** THE
GODS OR
GIANTS I
HAVE E'ER
KNOWN!

SPEAK, EYE!
BE THIS SOME
TERRIBLE
PARODY OF
THE GODS' OWN
DUSK THOU HAST
CONJURED UP,
MERELY TO
MOCK ME?

HARDLY,
THUNDERER.
BUT, LET US
PULL BACK
A BIT, BOTH
IN TIME AND
IN SPACE...

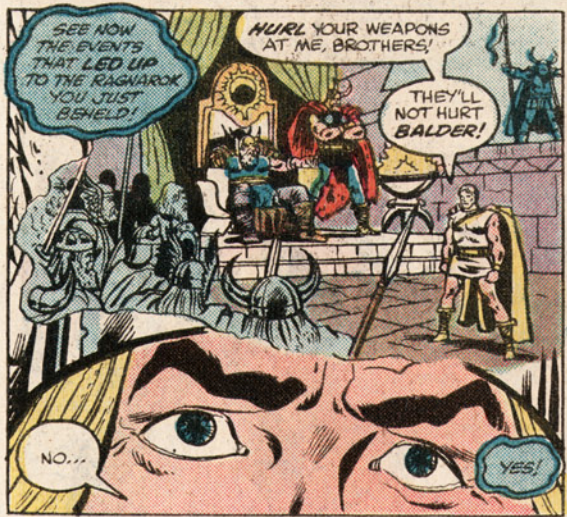


...AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE NOW!

'TIS
ASGARD--
OR ELSE A
PLACE MOST
LIKE IT!

BUT AGAIN, IT DOTTH
HAVE A MORE EARTHY
LOOK-- AYE, MUCH AS
MIDGARD ITSELF DID
APPEAR IN THOSE CENTURIES-
AGO DAYS WHEN
WE WERE WORSHIPPED
BY REAVERS OF THE
SEAS!

CORRECT! THIS
IS THAT OTHER
ASGARD... THE ASGARD
OF EARTHY LEGEND,
OF MIDGARD'S
MYTHS!



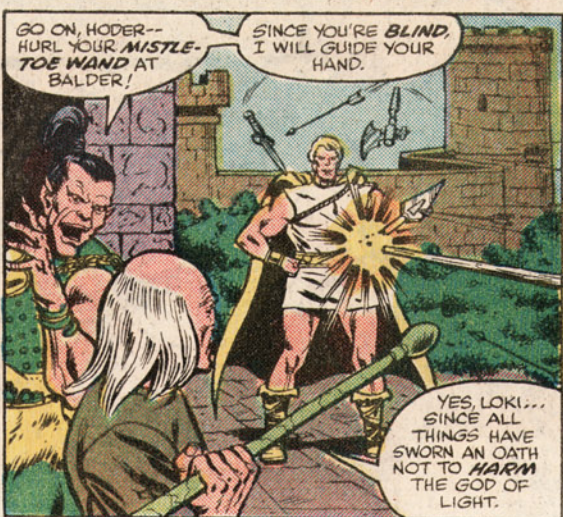
SEE NOW
THE EVENTS
THAT LED UP
TO THE RAGNAROK
YOU JUST
BEHELD!

HURL YOUR WEAPONS
AT ME, BROTHERS!

THEY'LL
NOT HURT
BALDER!

NO...

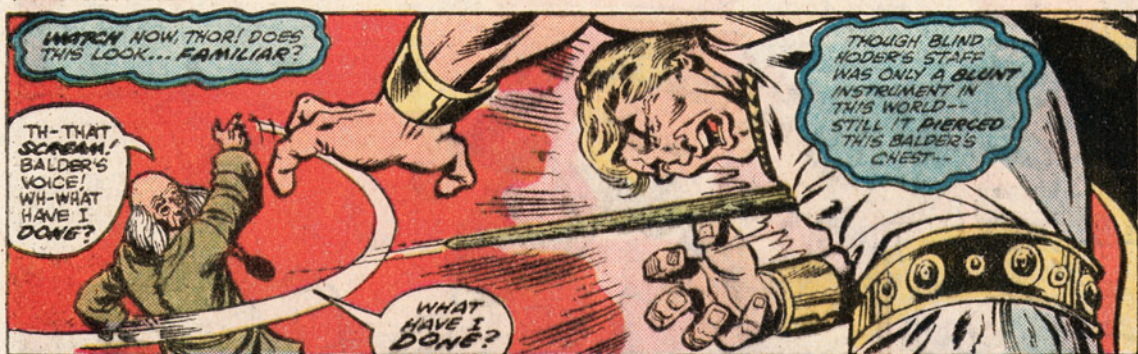
YES!



GO ON, HODER--
HURL YOUR MISTLE-
TOE WAND AT
BALDER!

SINCE YOU'RE BLIND,
I WILL GUIDE YOUR
HAND.

YES, LOKI...
SINCE ALL
THINGS HAVE
SWORN AN OATH
NOT TO HARM
THE GOD OF
LIGHT.



WATCH NOW, THOR! DOES THIS LOOK... FAMILIAR?

TH-THAT SCREAM! BALDER'S VOICE! WH-WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

THOUGH BLIND MODER'S STAFF WAS ONLY A BLUNT INSTRUMENT IN THIS WORLD-- STILL IT PIERCED THIS BALDER'S CHEST--



--BECAUSE THE LOWLY MISTLETOB, OF ALL THINGS, ALONE, HAD NOT BEEN BOUND BY THE OATH!

BY THE WAY-- DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT RED-BEARDED SWAIN STANDING BESIDE THIS ASGARD'S ODIN?

FATHER! BALDER IS TRULY-- DEAD!

IF I CANNOT RELEASE HIM FROM DEATH'S HOLD-- THEN RAGNAROK MUST SURELY FOLLOW!



AND, IN THIS LONG-AGO WORLD, RAGNAROK DID FOLLOW-- AS THIS EARLIER LOKI STEERS THE NELLSHIP, THEN LEADS ITS VILE CREW AGAINST ASGARD ITSELF...

COME, BROTHERS! VICTORY IS OURS THIS DAY!



THEN, BRANDISHING HIS GREAT SPEAR GUNGNIR, AND GIRT WITH HIS OWN GOLDEN HELMET, LORD ODIN LEADS THE HOSTS OF ASGARD AND VALKALLA ONE LAST TIME...

DWARF-FORGED MJOLNIR WILL SPEAK FOR THOR!

FORWARD, AESIR! SLAY THE HORDES OF HELL!

*THE NORSE GODS WERE CALLED THE AESIR UNLIKE OUR OWN FAR-FAMED ASGARDIANS.--R.T.

Dear Roy,

The current THOR storyline is a good one, but I'll withhold critical judgment till it's been around a bit longer. However, I was looking through the issues of THOR about two or three years back and noticed something interesting. In issue #260, Thor and company are searching for Odin at the Domsday Star. On pp. 16-17 there is a double-page spread with what Thor called a "great galactic graveyard." The picture in the lower right-hand corner is (I'll swallow a canary if it isn't!) Jemiah the Analyzer. Look at the splash of ETERNALS #7 and try disputing this. The eyes, nose, mouth, and headpiece are exactly the same. Now, I don't know if that has any import to the Celestial Storyline, or if the Soul Survivors have anything to do with this, but I think I deserve a no-prize for my detective work. Oh yeah, and the thing that Sif saw on p. 11, panel 5, of THOR #288 is the Destroyer. How about a double no-prize?

Mark Salzberg

Spring Valley, NY 10977

Tell you what, Mark, we'll give you one no-prize... and let you figure out which of the two awesome observations above it's for. Fair 'nuff? (In other words, keep watching, lad — you may or may not have something there!)

Dear Asgardian Armadillos,

To make a long story short, you've got some explaining to do. In Ish #288, page 6, frame 4, Thor says, as he is bathed in "electromagnetic energy," and I quote, "As long as mystic Mjolnir be in mine hands, villain — no amount of electrical energy can harm me."

I refer you now to issue #193, p. 8, frame 5, where Thor falls after receiving a dose of electricity. The Silver Surfer even pronounces him dead, if but for a moment.

Even though we don't actually see the hammer in his hand, I think it's safe to assume that it is there. I do not think he would want to risk throwing or leaving it somewhere above, lest he turn into Dr. Blake, and the only other place it could possibly be would be in his belt, if not in his hand, I think that Thor is smart enough to realize that he could not triumph over the Demolisher without his hammer (if he had a chance at all), and would thus not place it in his waistband and fight Durok hand to hand.

You may send a no-prize to...

Jon L Helmerl

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

It's yours, pal. (Sheesh, the no-prizes are falling like flies this month!) As a matter of fact, we're not certain that Thor should be immune to electricity whether he's holding his enchanted Uru hammer or not, since he is after all the Asgardian god of thunder, lord of the living lightning, right? So we'll offer another neon-lit no-prize to the reader who, a few short issues from now, comes up with the best way to reconcile Thor's bouts with voltage. Were we right in THOR #288 and wrong in #193 — or vice versa — or right in both, somehow — or wrong in both — or what? Don't keep us hangin', huh? You know how Marvel always counts on its frantic fans to keep it honest!

Dear Epic Makers,

What does Roy Thomas have in mind? That is the question that echoes in my brain as I finish THOR #288: "What does Roy Thomas have in mind?" What does a

dragon have to do with the Celestial Host? On whose side will the reanimated Destroyer fight? How powerful is the Uni-Mind? What kind of pact did Odin make with the Celestials a thousand years ago? And how will Karnilla fit in to all this? If you're going to throw this much at us, maybe THOR should go weekly!

Tad

(No other name or address given)

No thanks, friend. We're having enough problems just getting Roy and Keith to turn out these monumental block-busters once a month. If we tried to get any more out of them, they'd probably both go AWOL over the Rainbow Bridge!

Dear Roy and Mark:

I recently became a fan of THOR, and I've acquired back issues of the book, including THOR ANNUALS #5 and #7.

In THOR ANNUAL #5, on the first four panels of page 43, Thor tries to demonstrate his power to a rude Greek and nothing happens. On page 44, Big Daddy Odin explains, "Thor, we be immortals of the north! Thou knowest too well that we sustain the Vikings — yet in a very real sense, the Vikings likewise sustain us. Gods believe in men, and men believe in gods — their own gods. 'Twas ever thus."

And he goes, in essence, to say that Thor has power only because the Vikings believe he does, but that he has no power where people don't believe in him.

Yet in THOR ANNUAL #7, it is revealed that on this same day Thor travels to the land of the Eternals, which I believe is in South America. He uses his super-strength and mighty Mjolnir to battle savages who have never heard of him, and who worship instead the Eternals just as the Greeks worshipped the Olympians.

If Thor has no power where people do not know or believe in him, how did he have the power to battle the savages, whereas he had no power in Greece?

By the way, I think the Celestials Saga is just great! I just read #288 and can't wait for #289. You've gained eight new readers because of the current plot.

George W. Woodruff III

So who're the other seven, George? Don't tell us you like the current Thor epic so much you bought eight copies for yourself!

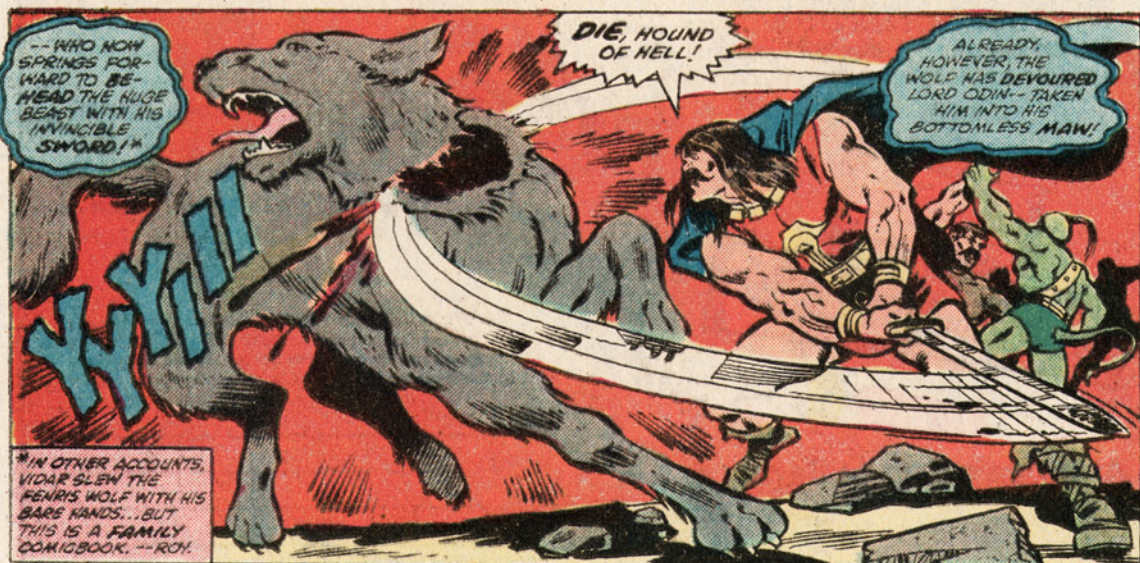
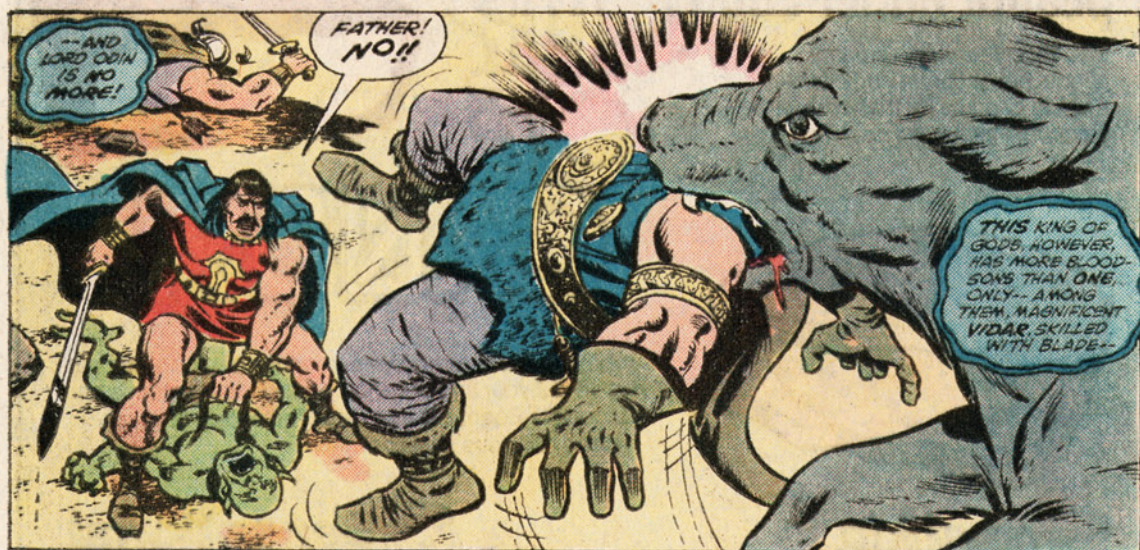
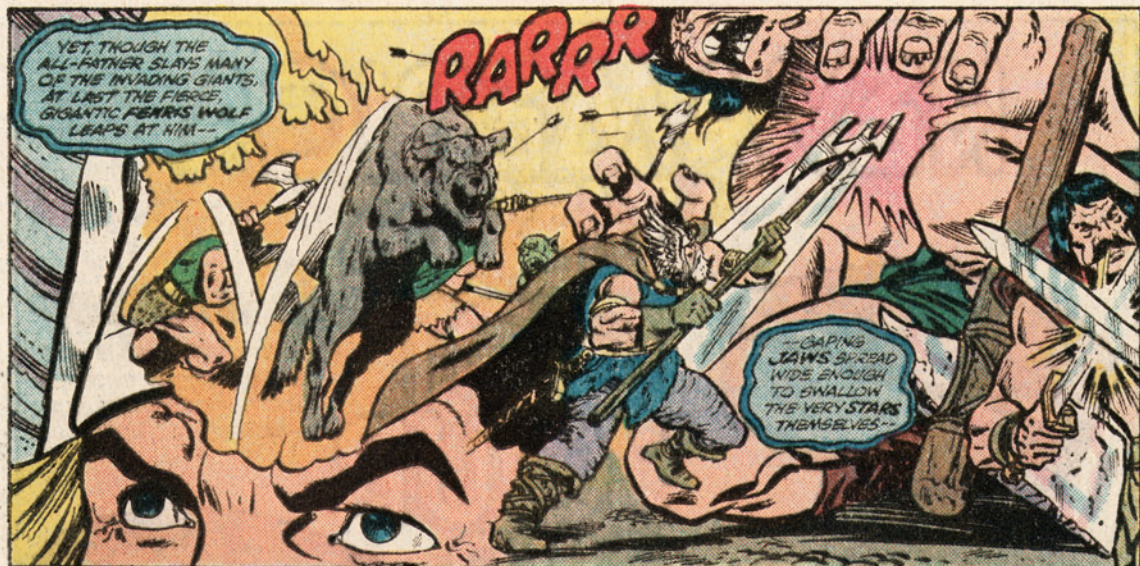
We can't go into the discrepancy between THOR ANNUALS #5 and #7 right now, except to assure you that a desire to rectify certain statements in the former was one of the reasons Roy T. started the Celestials Saga (as more than one reader has already termed it) in the first place. It's long been Ye Editor's thought that Steve Englehart's tale in THOR ANNUAL #5 was an exceptionally good one, but it did create some real continuity problems for the rest of the series. (Just as a "ferinstance": If Thor has no power where people don't believe in him, how did he beat the Stone Men from Saturn 'way back in his first comicbook outing in JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83, let alone fight all the modern-day bad-dies since then? You see what we mean?)

So stick around a while — and rest assured that, before the dust has settled, you'll know more about the ways of gods and men (at least in the mixed-up Marvel Universe) than you do now. Maybe even more than we do!

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. § 3685)

1. Title of publication: **THOR**
2. Date of publication: **NOVEMBER 1978**
3. Frequency of issue: **MONTHLY**
4. Issue number for this month: **288**
5. Annual subscription price: **\$5.00**
6. Mailing address of the publisher: **575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022**
7. Location of the headquarters or general business office of the publisher: **575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022**
8. Name and address of the publisher, editor, and managing editor: **Marvel Comics, Inc., 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022**
9. Name and address of the business manager: **Marvel Comics, Inc., 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022**
10. Name and address of the circulation manager: **Marvel Comics, Inc., 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022**
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
12. For completion by publishers mailing at special rate: **39 U.S.C. § 3626**
13. Publication of this statement is required by 39 U.S.C. § 3626
14. In accordance with the provisions of this statute, I hereby certify that the circulation data reported herein are true and correct.
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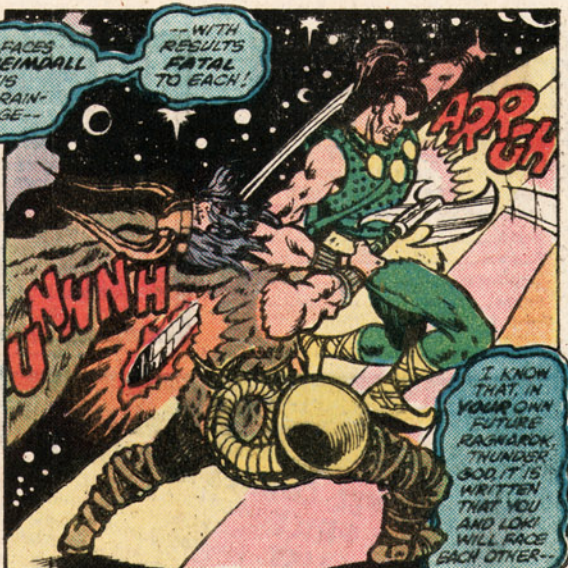
*IN OTHER ACCOUNTS, VIDAR SLEW THE FENRIS WOLF WITH HIS BARE HANDS... BUT THIS IS A FAMILY COMICBOOK. --ROY.



THE DOOM OF GODS AND GIANTS BOTH IS WRIT LARGE NOW, IN FLAMING LETTERS THAT CANNOT BE ERASED--

--AS LOKI FACES STALWART HEIMDALL ATOP THIS ASGARD'S RAINBOW BRIDGE--

--WITH RESULTS FATAL TO EACH!



UHHH

I KNOW THAT, IN YOUR OWN FUTURE RAGNAROK, THUNDER GOD, IT IS WRITTEN THAT YOU AND LOKI WILL FACE EACH OTHER--

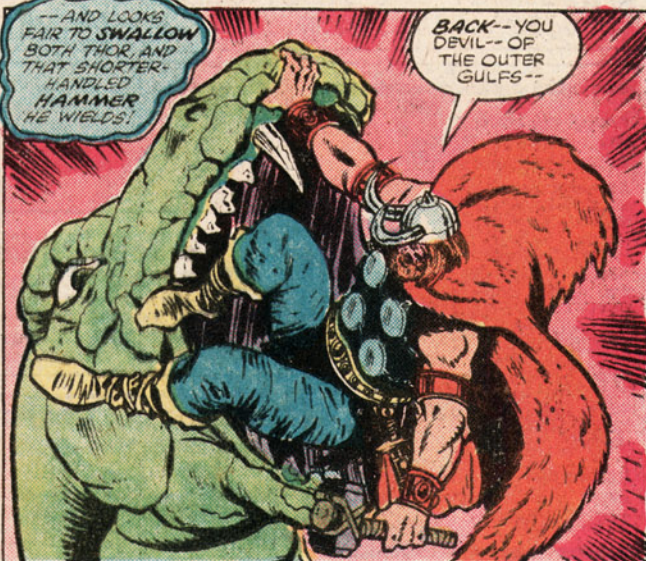


BUT, IN THIS RAGNAROK OF WHICH SNORRI STURLUSON AND THE VOLUSPA DID SPEAK, IT IS THE VENOM-SPEWING MIDGARD SERPENT WHO SEEKS YOU OUT FOR THE FINAL BATTLE--

OR RATHER, IT IS HE THAT OTHER THOR FACES.

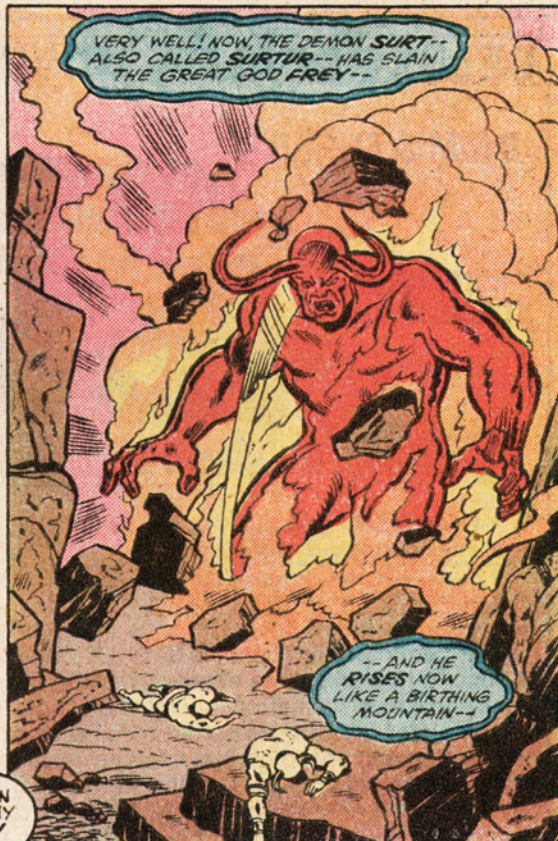
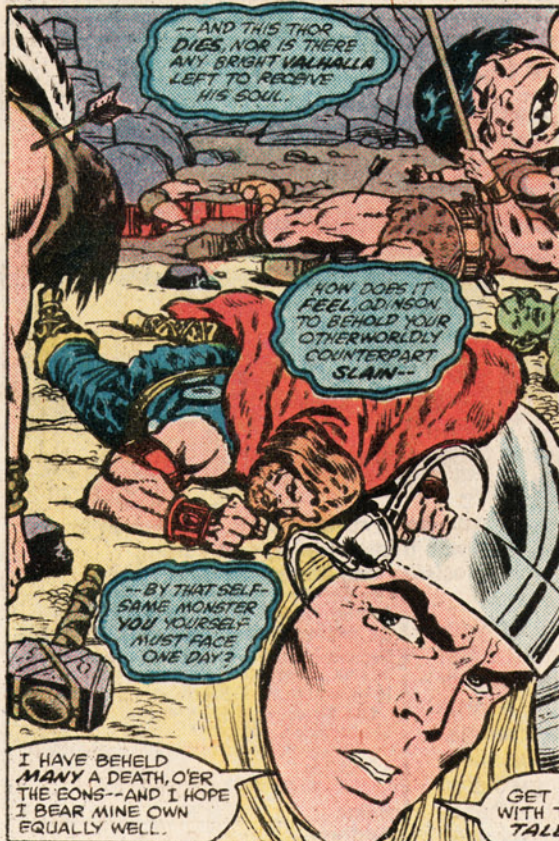


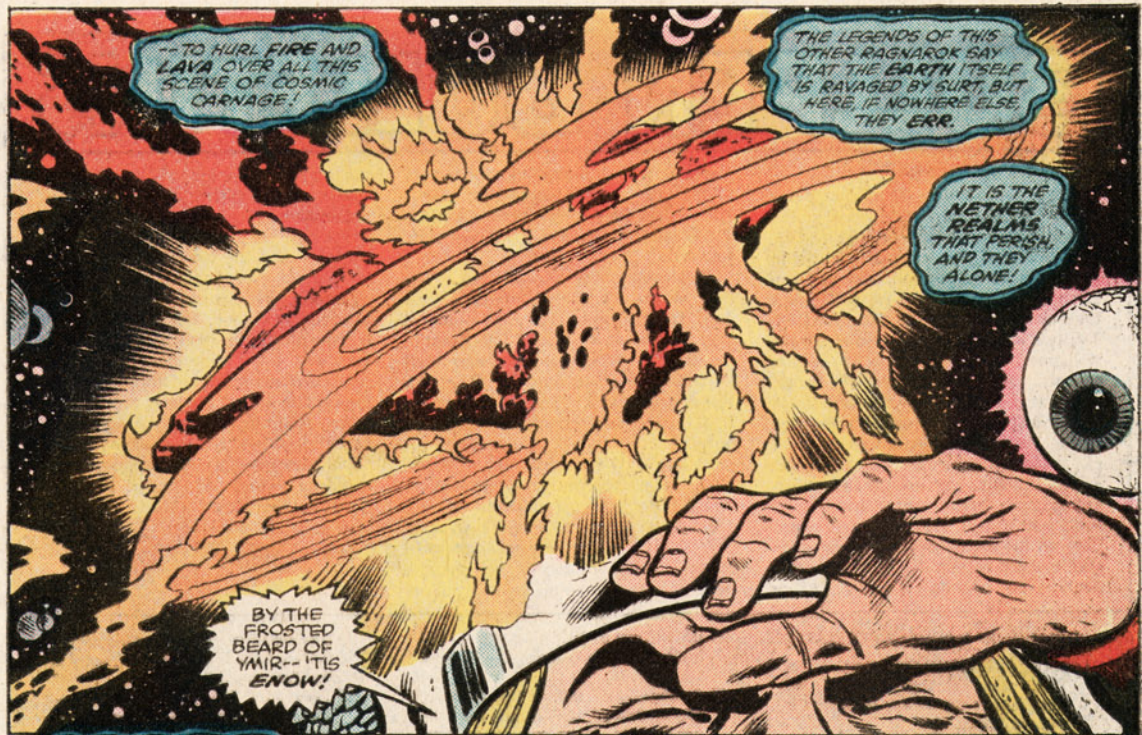
PERHAPS HE'S NOT YOUR EQUAL, AS HE APPEARS-- FOR, LIKE AN AVENGING DRAGON, THE GREAT SERPENT SWOOPS DOWN TO SINK VAST FANGS INTO THE GOD'S FLESH--



--AND LOOKS FAIR TO SWALLOW BOTH THOR, AND THAT SHORTER-HANDLED HAMMER HE WIELDS!

BACK--YOU DEVIL--OF THE OUTER GULFS--





--TO HURL FIRE AND LAVA OVER ALL THIS SCENE OF COSMIC CARNAGE!

THE LEGENDS OF THIS OTHER RAGNAROK SAY THAT THE EARTH ITSELF IS RAVAGED BY SURT, BUT HERE, IF NOWHERE ELSE, THEY ERR.

IT IS THE NETHER REALMS THAT PERISH, AND THEY ALONE!

BY THE FROSTED BEARD OF YMIR-- 'TIS ENOW!

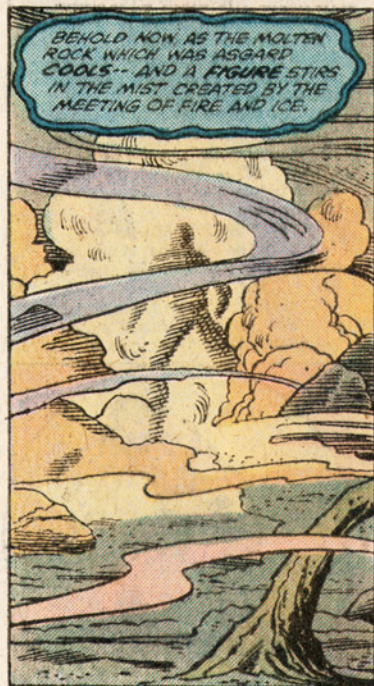


THUS DID RAGNAROK OCCUR, IN THIS LONG-AGO TIME.

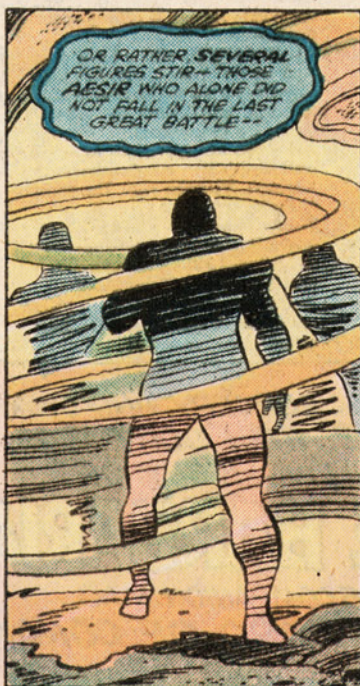
BUT, E'EN IF THOU DOST SAY TRULY-- WHEN DID IT HAPPEN, ORB?

WHEN-- AYE, AND WHERE?

LOOK ON THUNDERER...



BEHOLD NOW, AS THE MOLTEN ROCK WHICH WAS ASGARD COOLS-- AND A FIGURE STIRS IN THE MIST CREATED BY THE MEETING OF FIRE AND ICE.

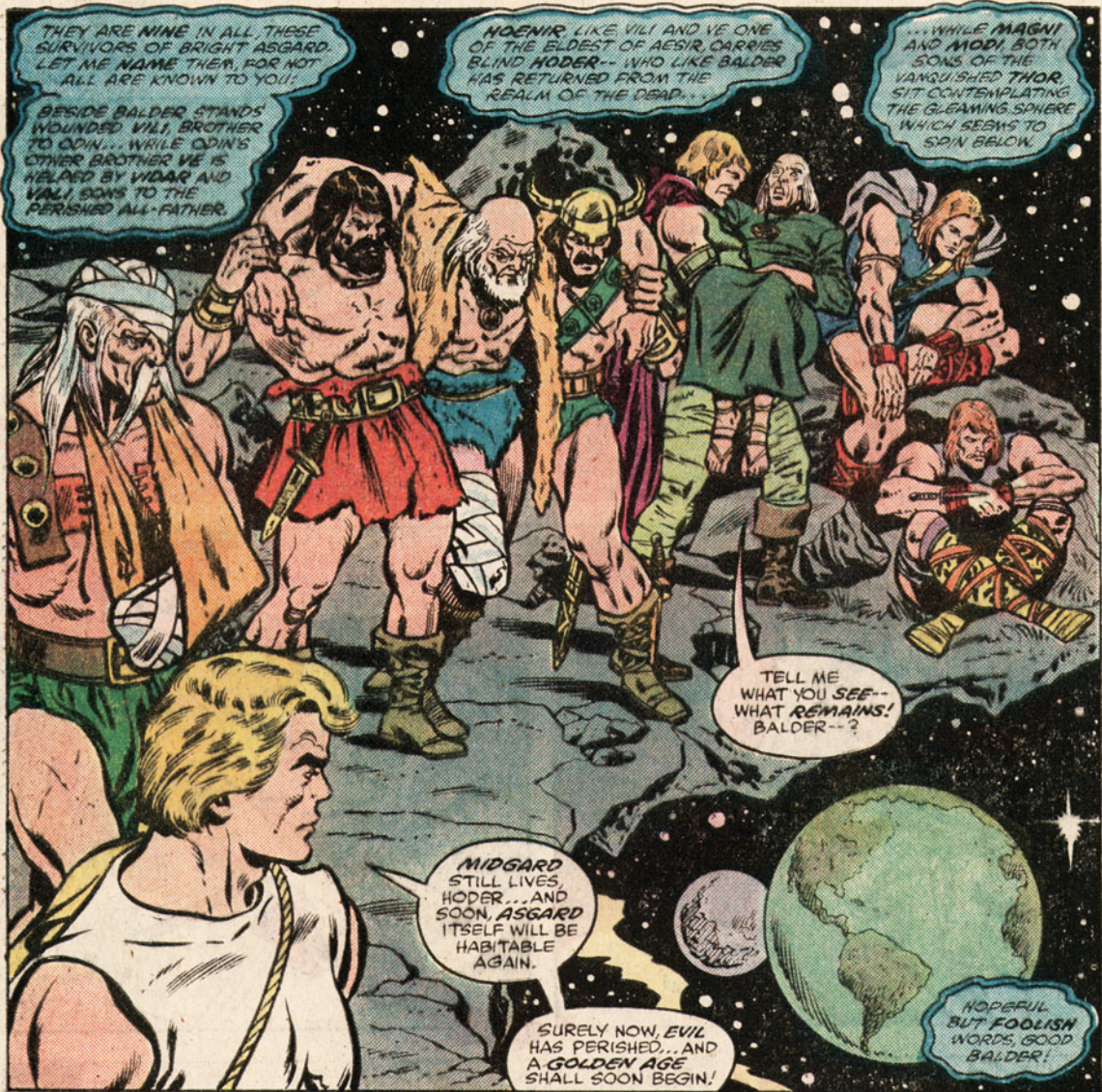


OR RATHER, SEVERAL FIGURES STIR-- THOSE AESIR WHO ALONE DID NOT FALL IN THE LAST GREAT BATTLE--



AND FOREMOST AMONG THESE IS BALDER, GOD OF LIGHT-- RETURNING FROM THE HELL INTO WHICH HE HAD DESCENDED AFTER HIS DEATH AT HODER'S HAND.

COME...MY BROTHERS...



THEY ARE NINE IN ALL, THESE SURVIVORS OF BRIGHT ASGARD. LET ME NAME THEM, FOR NOT ALL ARE KNOWN TO YOU:

BESIDE BALDER STANDS WOUNDED VILI, BROTHER TO ODIN... WHILE ODIN'S OTHER BROTHER VE IS HELPED BY VIDAR AND VALI, SONS TO THE PERISHED ALL-FATHER.

HOENIR, LIKE VILI AND VE ONE OF THE ELDEST OF AESIR, CARRIES BLIND HODER-- WHO LIKE BALDER HAS RETURNED FROM THE REALM OF THE DEAD...

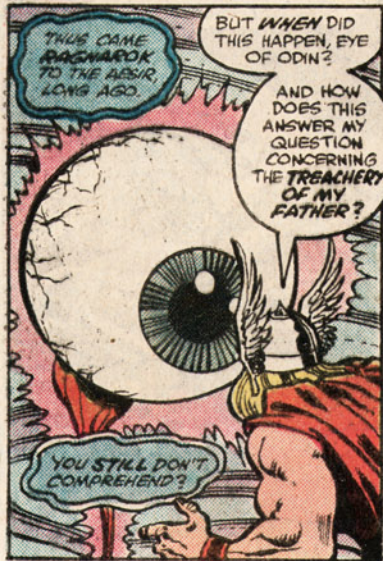
...WHILE MAGNI AND MODI, BOTH SONS OF THE VANQUISHED THOR, SIT CONTEMPLATING THE GLEAMING SPHERE WHICH SEEMS TO SPIN BELOW.

TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE-- WHAT REMAINS! BALDER--?

MIDGARD STILL LIVES, HODER... AND SOON, ASGARD ITSELF WILL BE HABITABLE AGAIN.

SURELY NOW, EVIL HAS PERISHED... AND A GOLDEN AGE SHALL SOON BEGIN!

HOPEFUL BUT FOOLISH WORDS, GOOD BALDER!



THIS CAME RAGNAROK TO THE AESIR, LONG AGO.

BUT WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN, EYE OF ODIN?

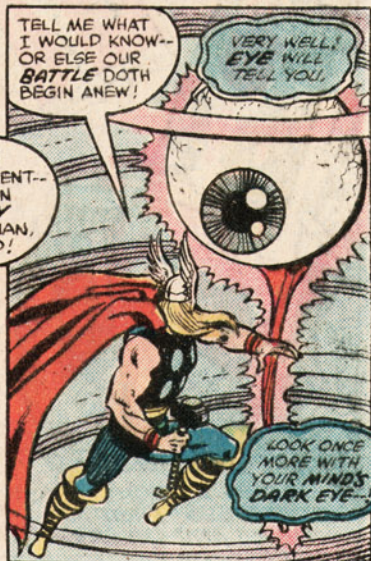
AND HOW DOES THIS ANSWER MY QUESTION CONCERNING THE TREACHERY OF MY FATHER?

YOU STILL DON'T COMPREHEND?



I AM NO FOOL, ORB-- I AM A SCYON OF ASGARD!

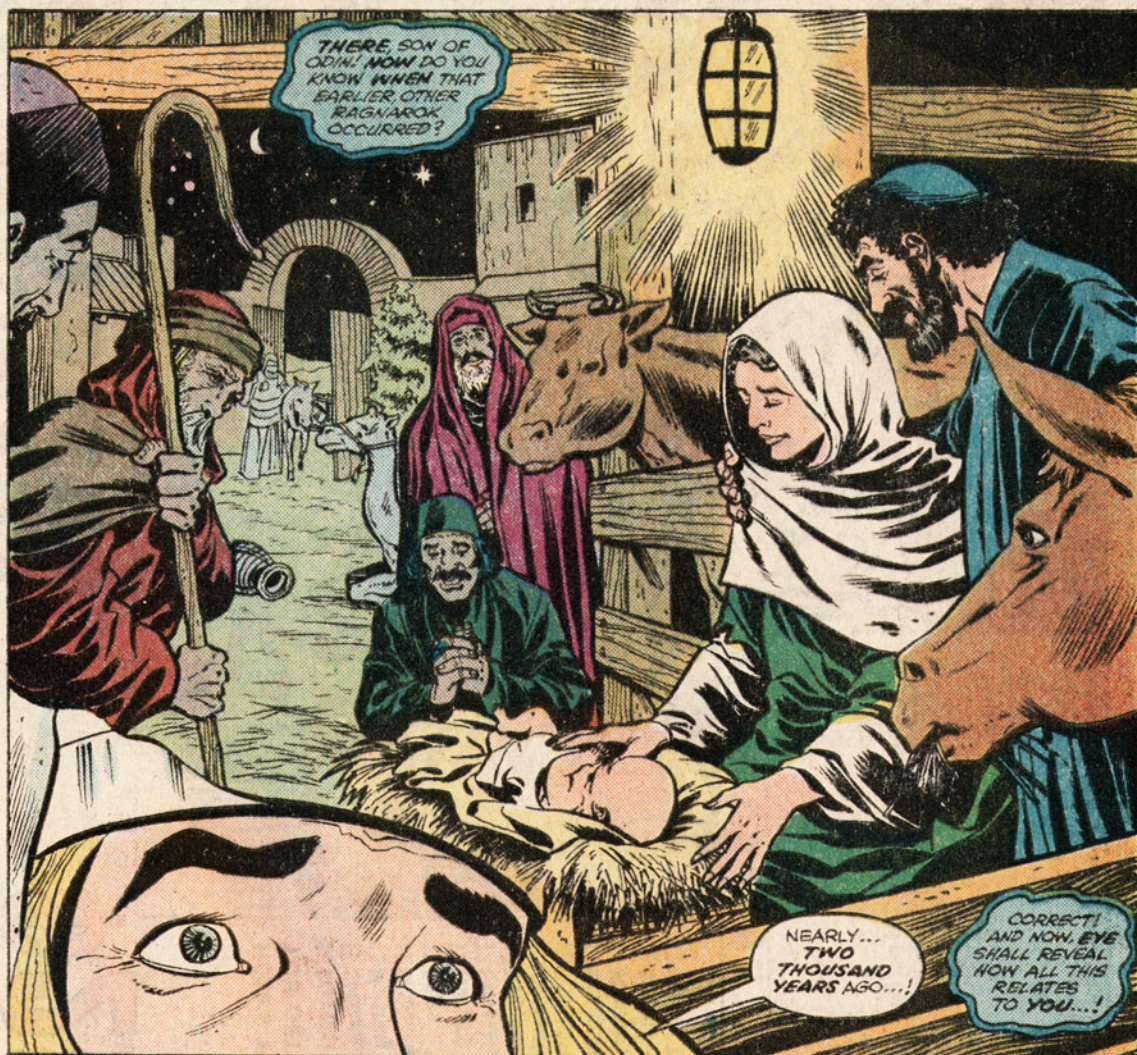
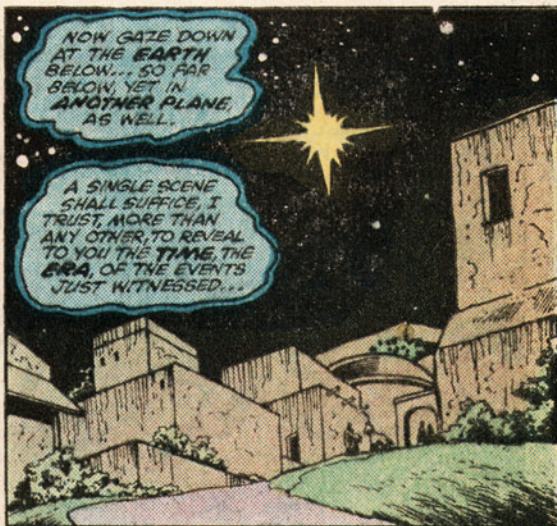
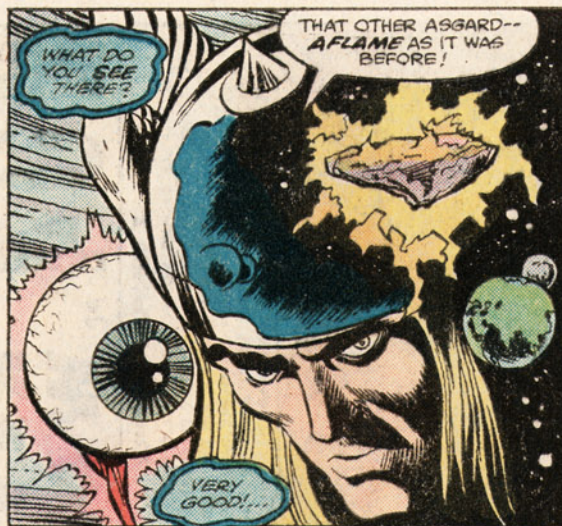
AND, IN THIS MOMENT-- I BE AN ANGRY ASGARDIAN, INDEED!



TELL ME WHAT I WOULD KNOW-- OR ELSE OUR BATTLE DOTH BEGIN ANEW!

VERY WELL, EYE WILL TELL YOU.

LOOK ONCE MORE WITH YOUR MIND'S DARK EYE--



NEW ASGARD FOR OLD! --ALSO-- THE RE-BIRTH OF ODIN!