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# THE MIGHTY THOR



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

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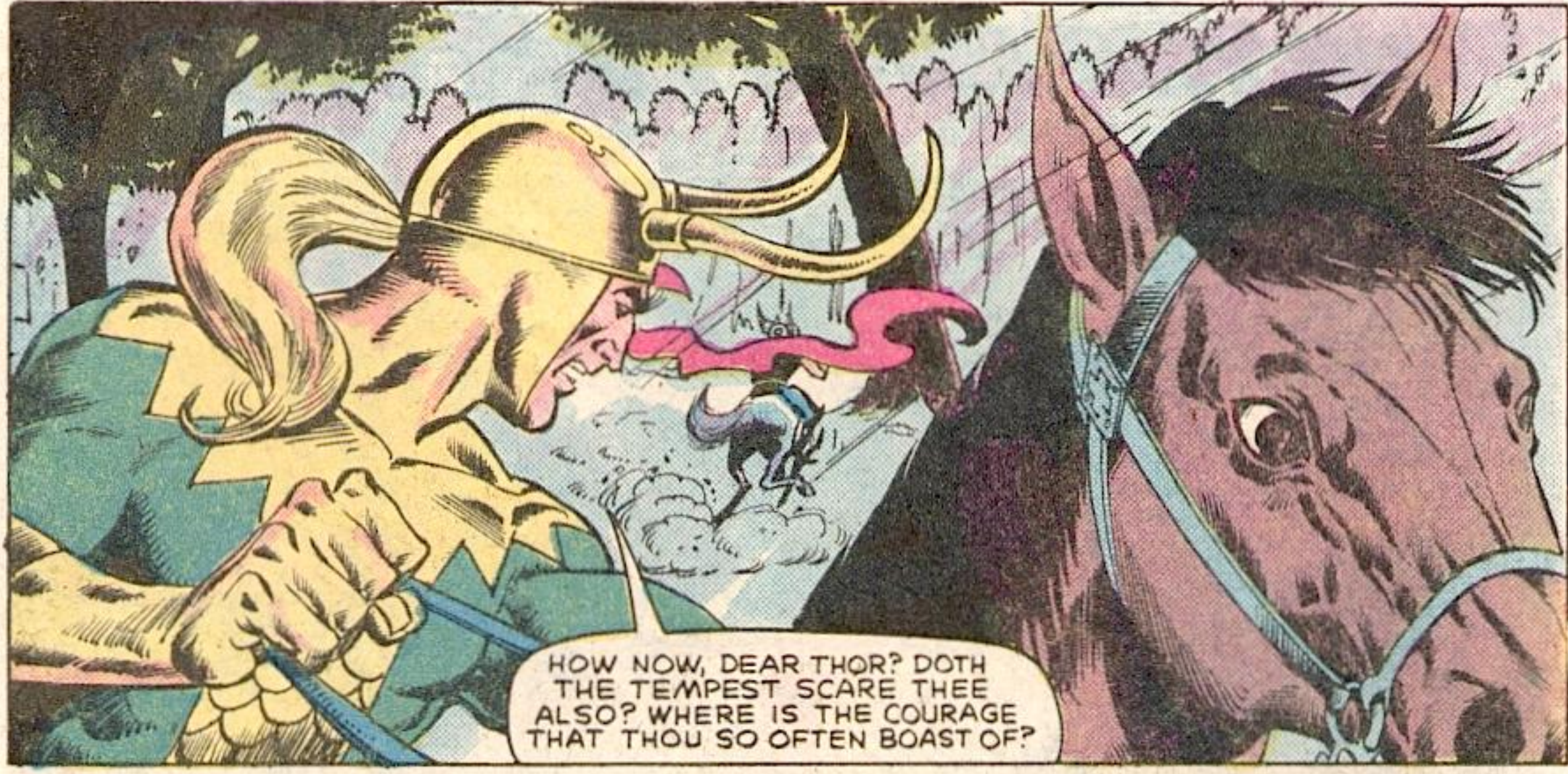
IN THE CENTURIES BEFORE THE MIGHTY THOR WAS FULLY GROWN, HE WAS EAGER TO PROVE HIS COURAGE, STRENGTH, AND BATTLE PROWESS IN ANY WAY HE COULD. AND SO, ON THIS LONG-AGO DAY, THOR GALLOPS FORTH TO THE VERY FRONTIER OF THE ETERNAL REALM IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE, ACCOMPANIED BY MISCHIEVOUS LOKI AND HIS FRIENDS...

## ... COMES A DARK STRANGER!

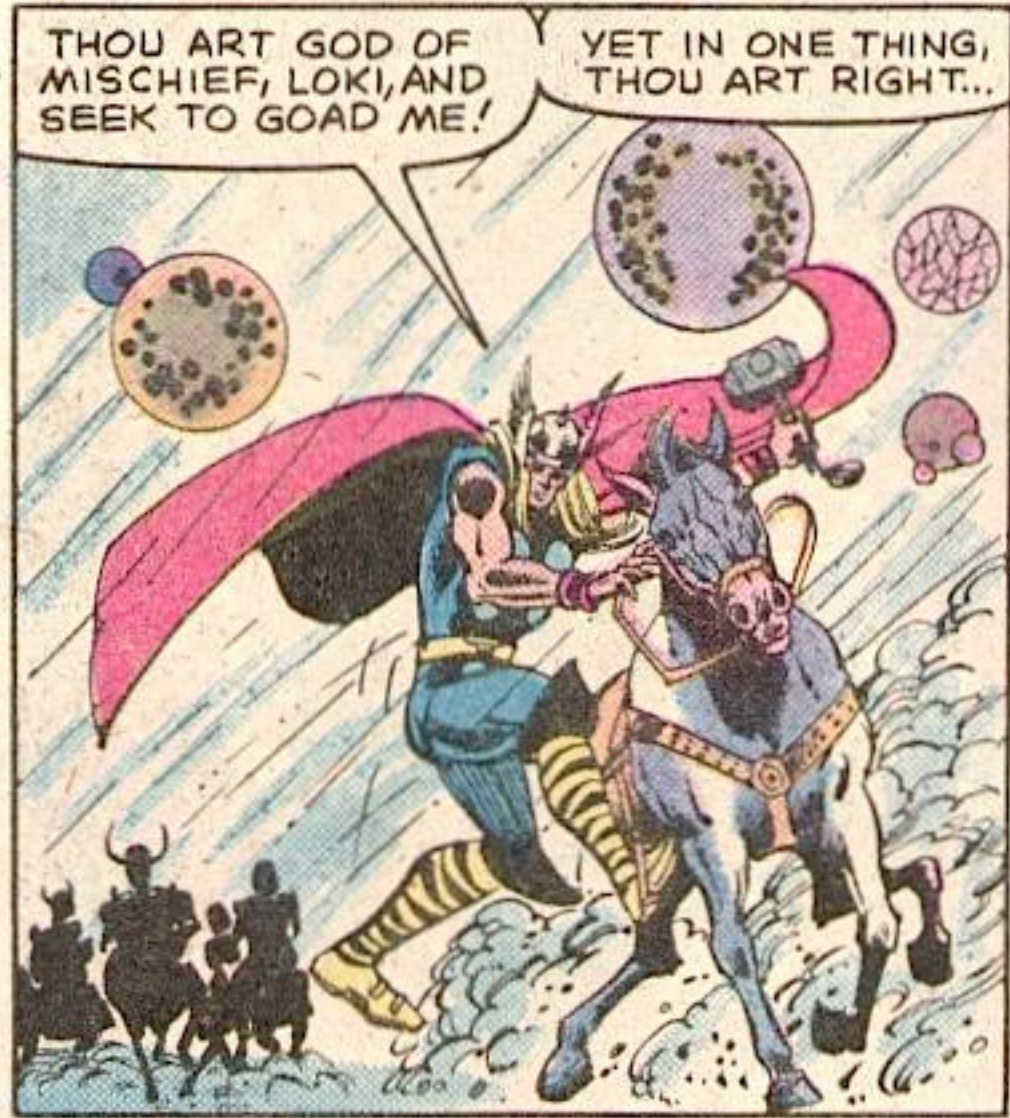
THE STORM AND THESE STRANGE WOODS FRIGHTEN THE HORSES!

FEAR NOT, GRIM HOGUN! MY BROTHER IS GOD OF THUNDER!

'TIS HIS PARLOR GAME TO HALT STORMS!

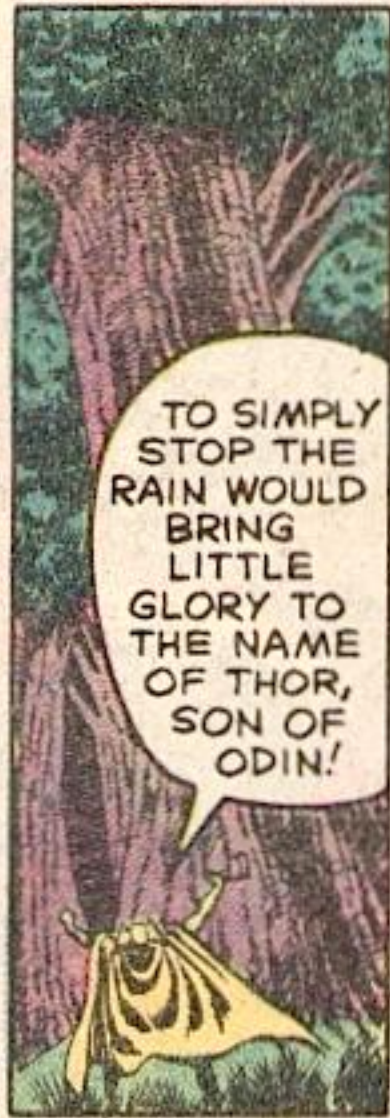


HOW NOW, DEAR THOR? DO TH THE TEMPEST SCARE THEE ALSO? WHERE IS THE COURAGE THAT THOU SO OFTEN BOAST OF?



THOU ART GOD OF MISCHIEF, LOKI, AND SEEK TO GOAD ME!

YET IN ONE THING, THOU ART RIGHT...

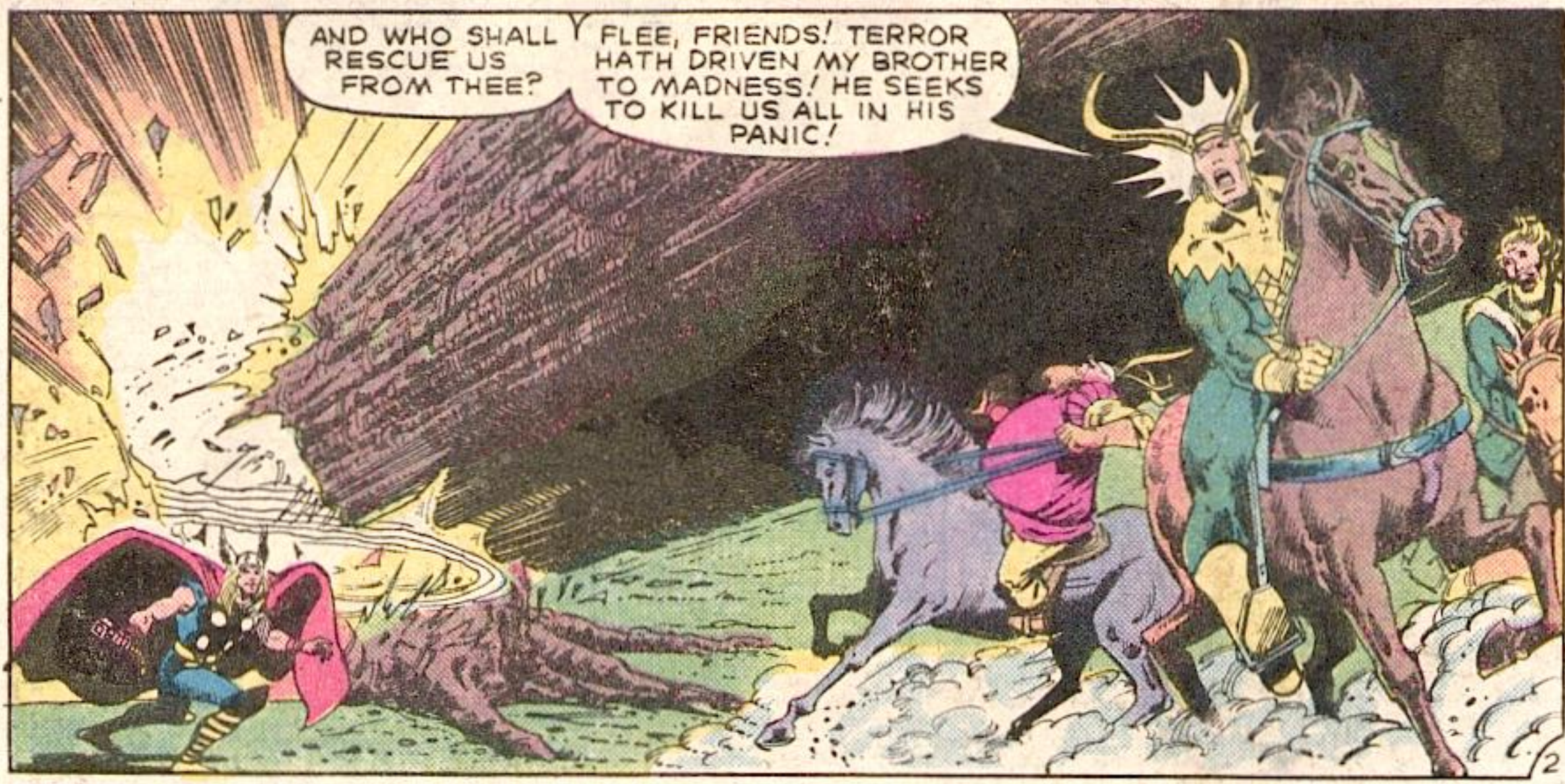


TO SIMPLY STOP THE RAIN WOULD BRING LITTLE GLORY TO THE NAME OF THOR, SON OF ODIN!



BY FORCE OF ARM ALONE, I SHALL RESCUE US FROM THE STORM'S FURY!

**THOOM!**



AND WHO SHALL RESCUE US FROM THEE?

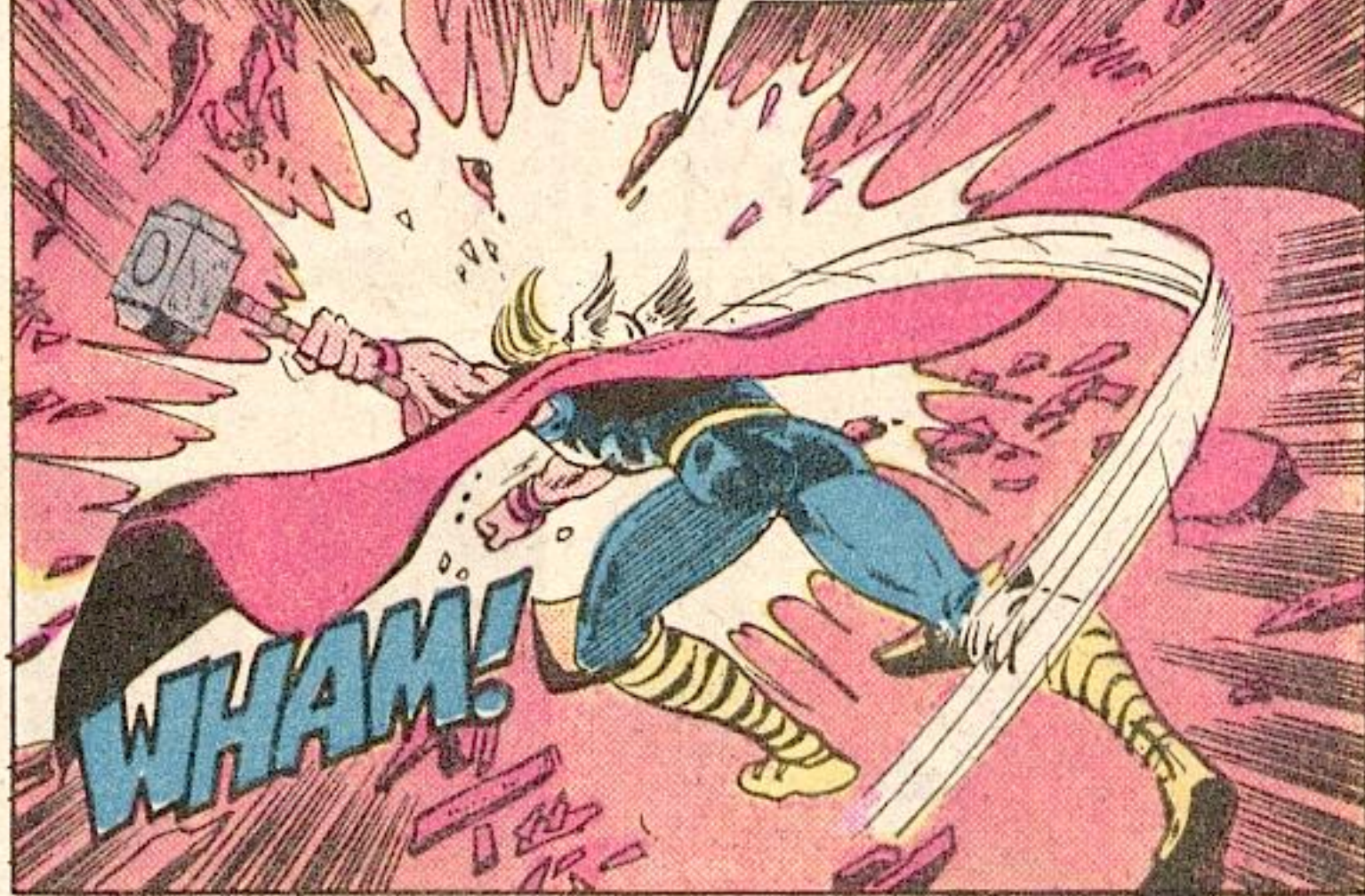
FLEE, FRIENDS! TERROR HATH DRIVEN MY BROTHER TO MADNESS! HE SEEKS TO KILL US ALL IN HIS PANIC!

HA! METHINKS THOU KNOWEST FEAR THYSELF, LOKI!

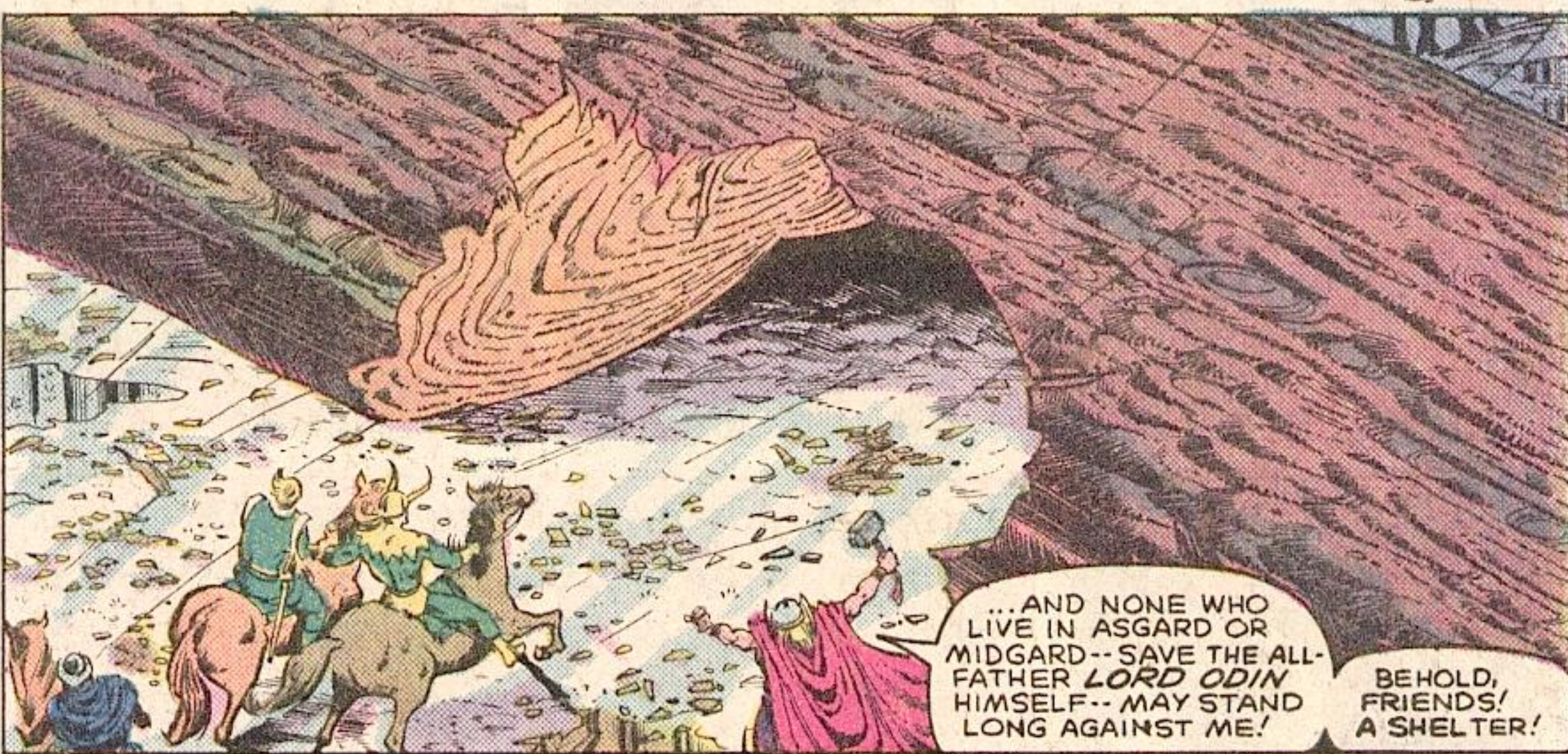
NAY! YET WHILST THOU PLAYEST THY SELF-SERVING GAMES, WE BECAME DRENCHED!



AS ALWAYS, LOOK TO THOR FOR SUCCOR! MINE IS THE POWER...



WHAM!



...AND NONE WHO LIVE IN ASGARD OR MIDGARD-- SAVE THE ALL-FATHER LORD ODIN HIMSELF-- MAY STAND LONG AGAINST ME!

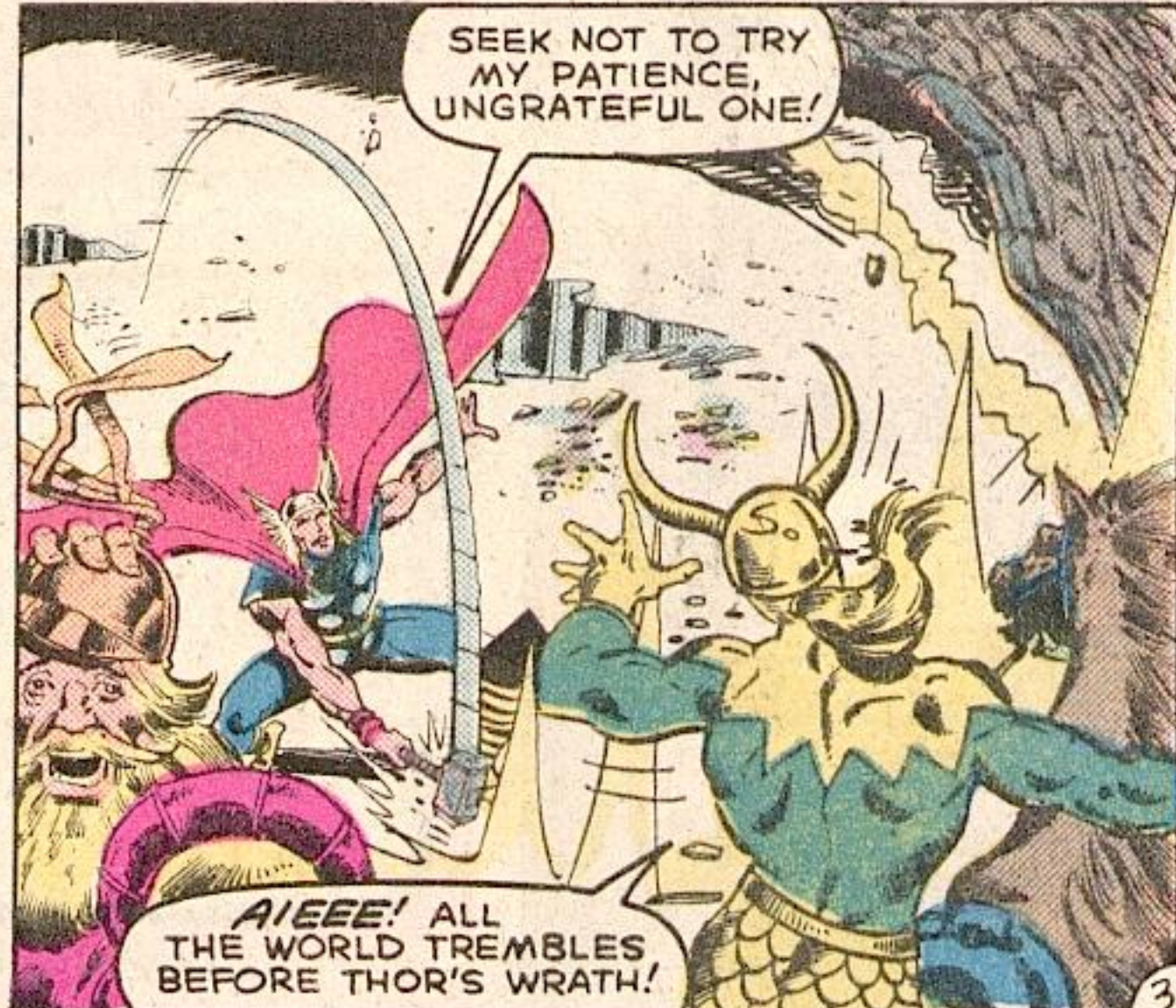
BEHOLD, FRIENDS! A SHELTER!

BROTHER, THOU ART EVER THE BLUSTERER, AND GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO DO WHAT ANOTHER WOULD DO MOST SIMPLY!



EH?

SILENCE, LOKI!



SEEK NOT TO TRY MY PATIENCE, UNGRATEFUL ONE!

AIEEE! ALL THE WORLD TREMBLES BEFORE THOR'S WRATH!

YET I HAVE STOPPED THE STORM, FOR YOUR SAKES!

HOW GRACIOUS OF YOU, BROTHER.

RISE, LOKI! THOU ART OF ROYAL FAMILY, AND SHOULD NOT GROVEL IN THE DIRT!

TRY TO MATCH ME IN COURAGE, THOUGH THOU CAN NOT EQUAL MY POWER!

WE SHALL ONE DAY PUT THAT NOTION TO THE TEST!

EH? BROTHER! BEHIND THEE!

WHAT GIVES THEE MASKS OF FRIGHT, COMRADES? IS NOT THOR HERE TO PROTECT--?

WAIT! A DARK CLOUD, THOUGH MY WILL HATH BANISHED THE STORM!

THEN THOU ART FEEBLE IN THY WILL, THOR--FOR THE STORM STRIKES!

PERFIDY!

BY ODIN! IN THE BOLT--A FORM...

WHO GOES THERE?

WHO DARES WALK THE BORDERS OF MY DOMAIN?

YOU HAVE THE LOOK OF ODIN'S WHELPS! DOES HE NOW UNLEASH HIS KENNEL AGAINST ME...



... WHOM HE HIMSELF COULD NOT DEFEAT? WILL YOU TEST YOUR POWER AGAINST MINE?

SPEAK OR STEP FORTH, YOU ILL-BRED BOYS!



WE MEAN NO DISRESPECT, SIR...

ART THOU A MERE BRAGGART, BROTHER, THAT THOU WILT NOT DEFEND ASGARD'S HONOR? THOU SHALT LOSE FACE WITH THE OTHERS!

HA! IS THIS THE STUFF OF ASGARD? WILL NONE MEET ME, SINEW AGAINST SINEW?



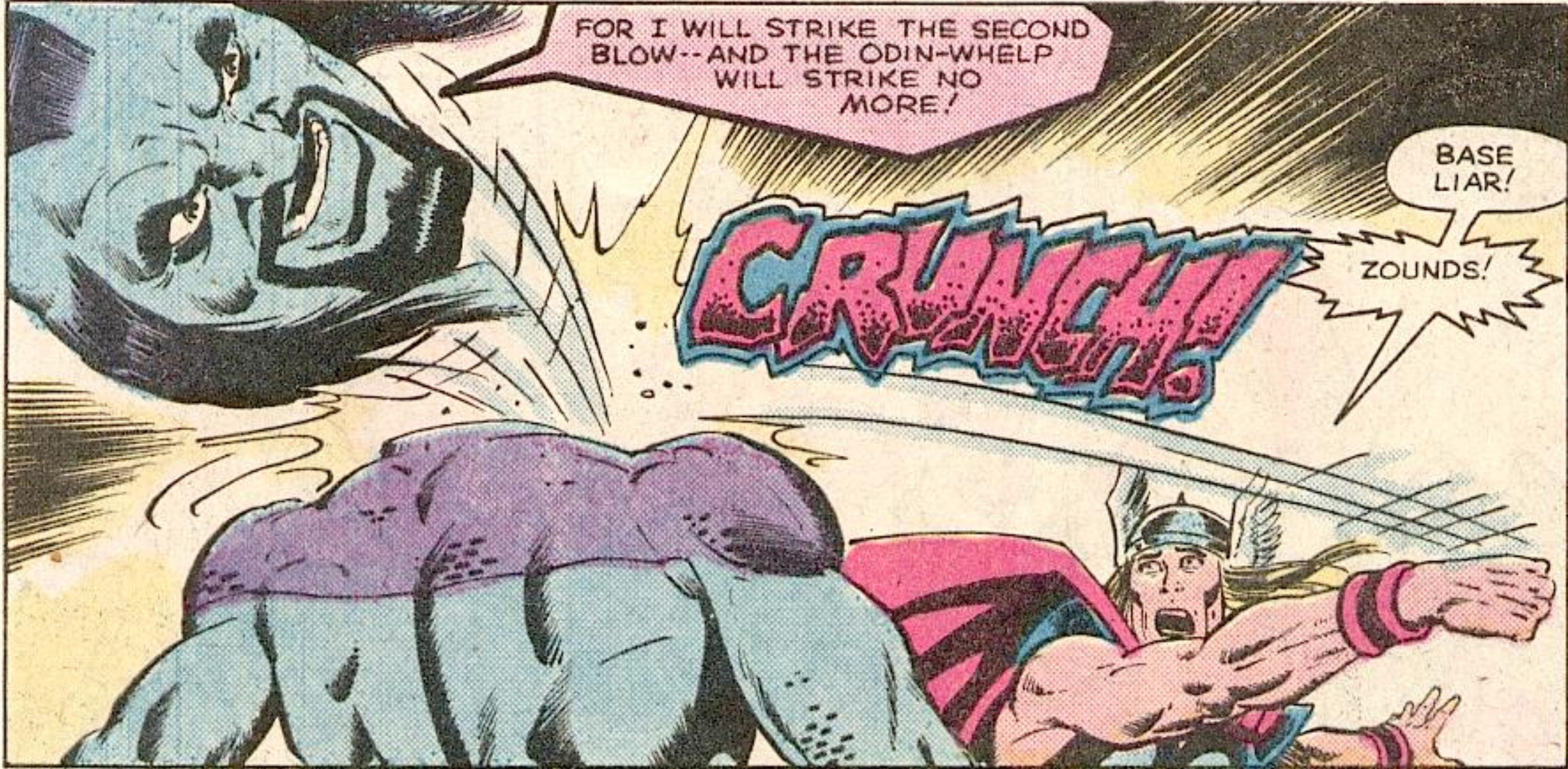
GO, HATED BROTHER! THY HUMILIATION SHALL BE MY GLORY!

MOCK NOT ASGARD OR ODIN, DARK ONE! THOR SHALL BEST THEE...

... OR PERISH, LITTLE GOD!

STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW, AND STRIKE IT WELL!

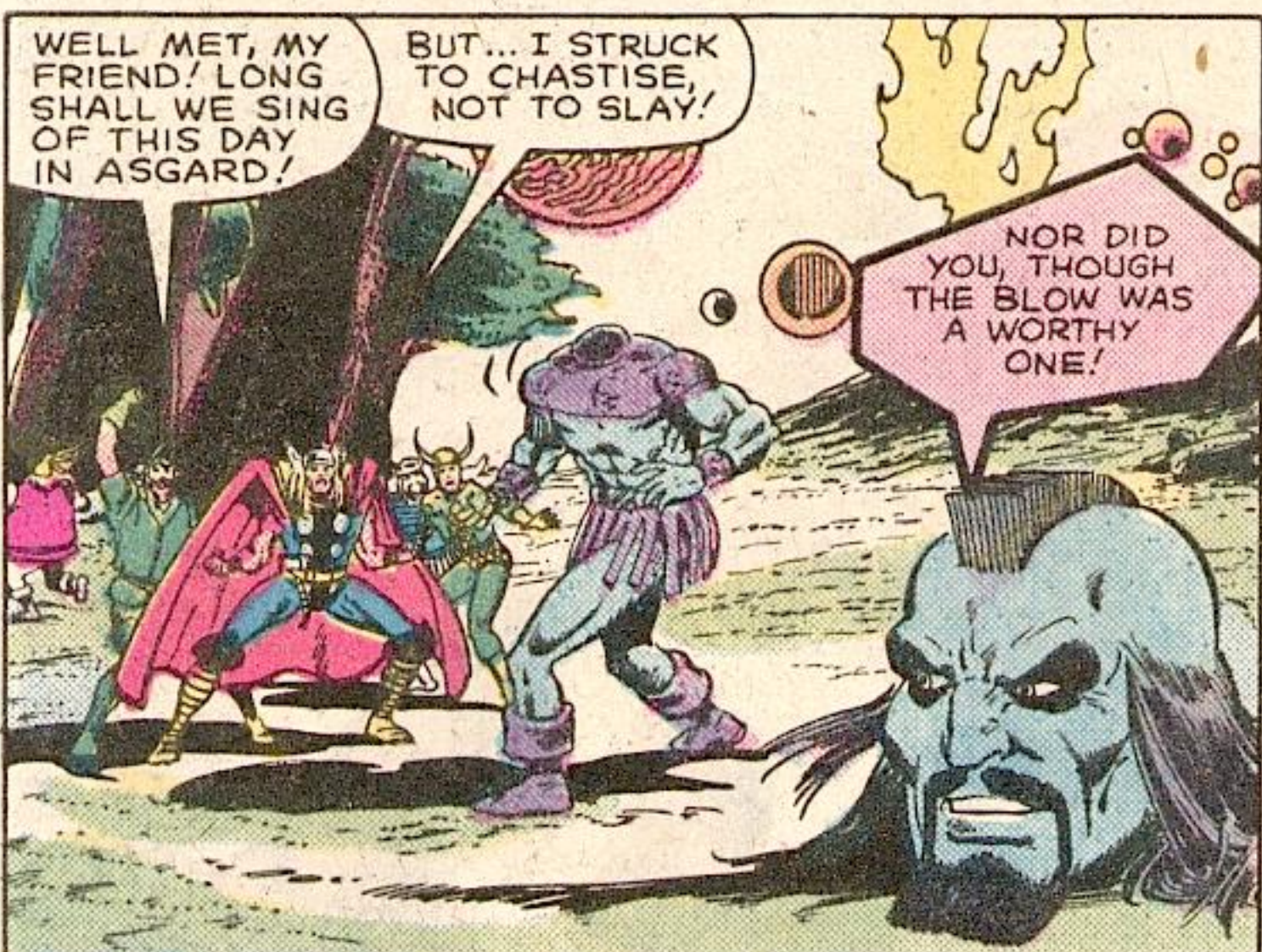




FOR I WILL STRIKE THE SECOND BLOW--AND THE ODIN-WHELP WILL STRIKE NO MORE!

**CRUNCH!**

BASE LIAR!  
ZOUNDS!



WELL MET, MY FRIEND! LONG SHALL WE SING OF THIS DAY IN ASGARD!

BUT... I STRUCK TO CHASTISE, NOT TO SLAY!

NOR DID YOU, THOUGH THE BLOW WAS A WORTHY ONE!



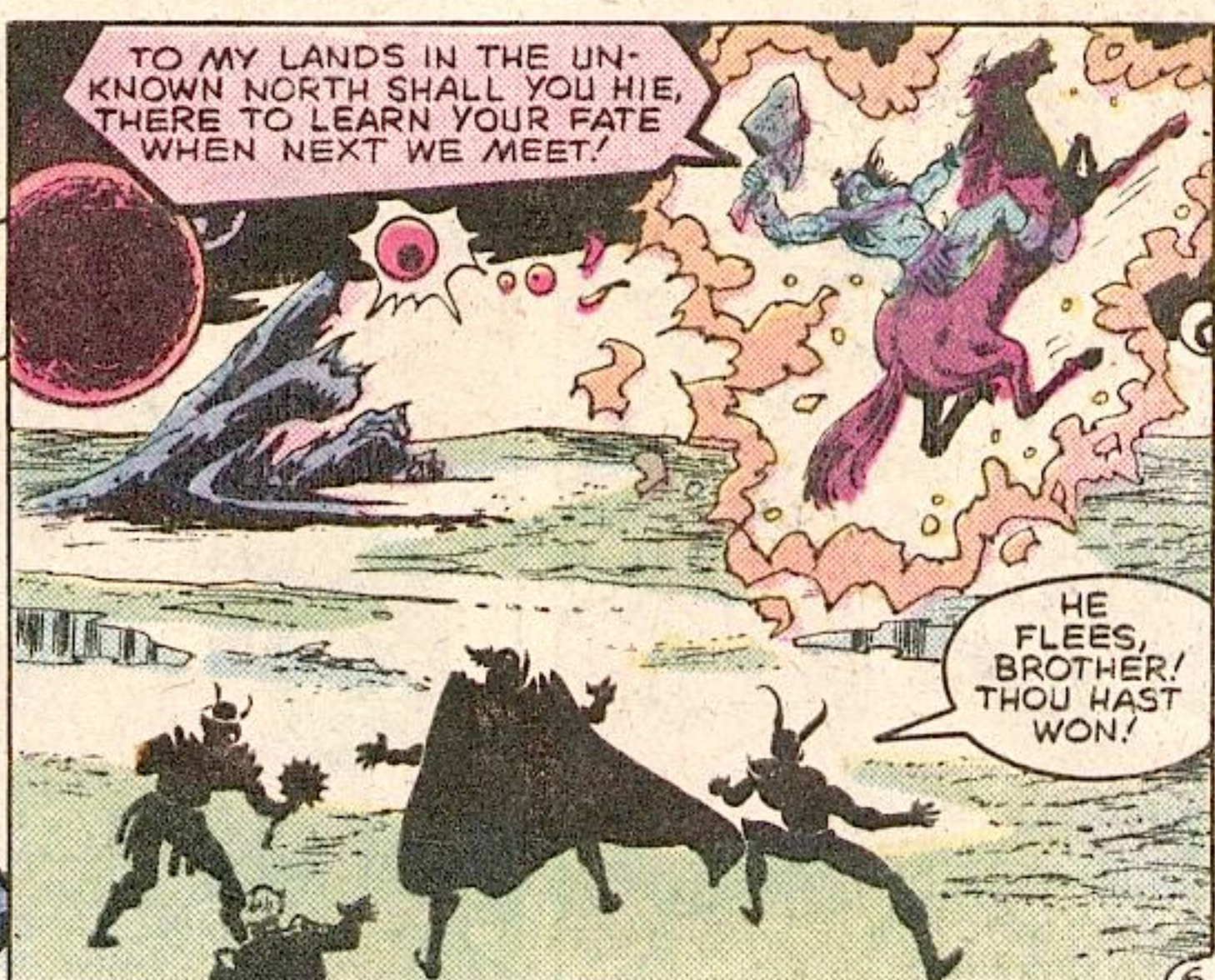
NOW, BY THE TERMS OF THE MATCH, YOU MUST LAY YOURSELF OPEN TO MY STRENGTH--OR BE DISHONORED!

BUT NOT NOW... NOT HERE...



WHEN THEN? WHERE SHALL THOR FACE THEE?

INCITE HIM NOT, MY FRIEND!



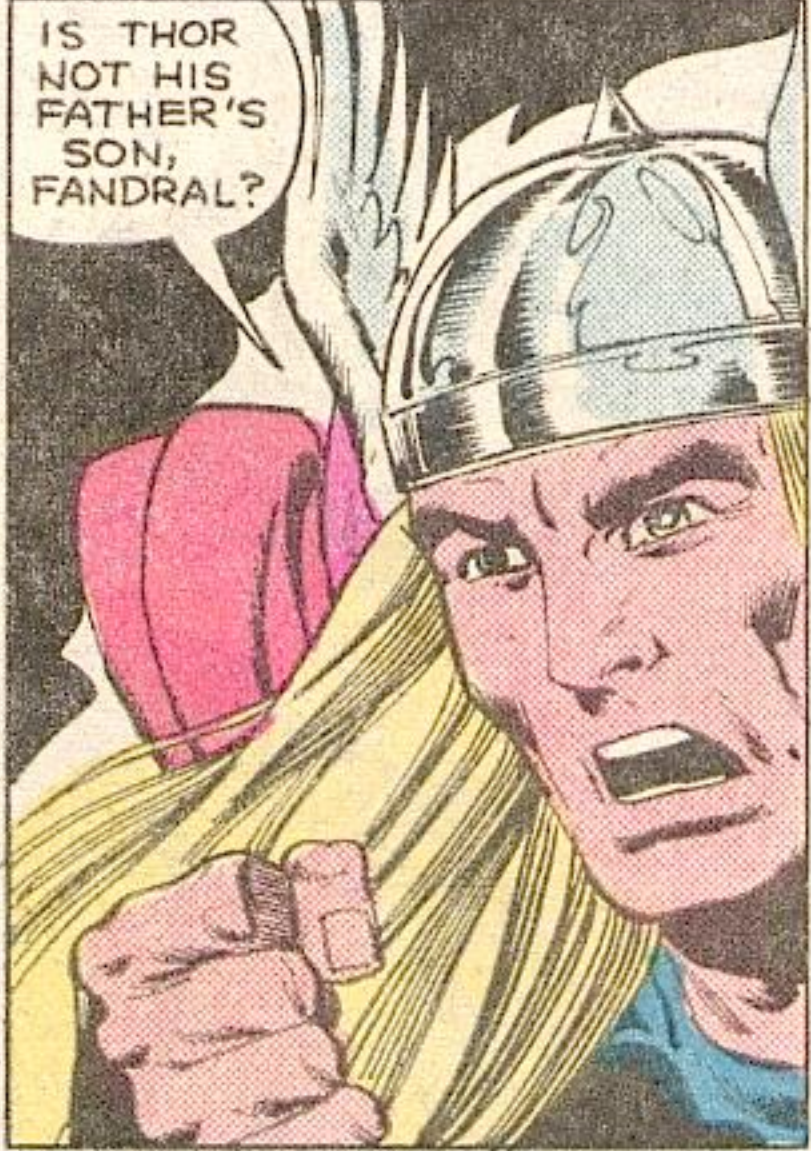
TO MY LANDS IN THE UNKNOWN NORTH SHALL YOU HIE, THERE TO LEARN YOUR FATE WHEN NEXT WE MEET!

HE FLEES, BROTHER! THOU HAST WON!

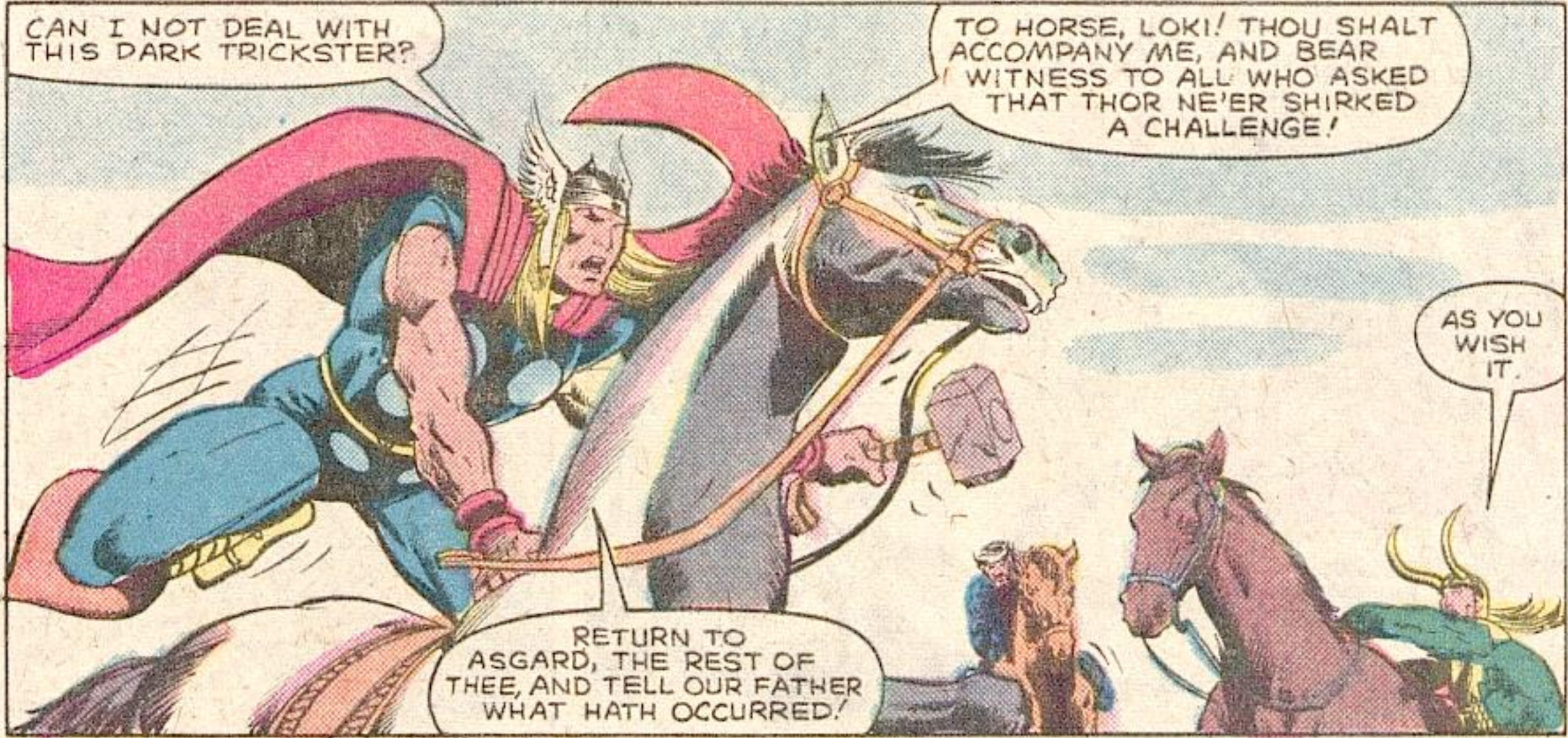
NAY! THE DARK ONE BUT TOYS WITH ME, AND THINKS ME AFRAID TO FOLLOW!



FRIEND, IT IS SAID THAT ONLY ALL-FATHER ODIN HATH ENTERED THAT REGION AND RETURNED!



IS THOR NOT HIS FATHER'S SON, FANDRAL?

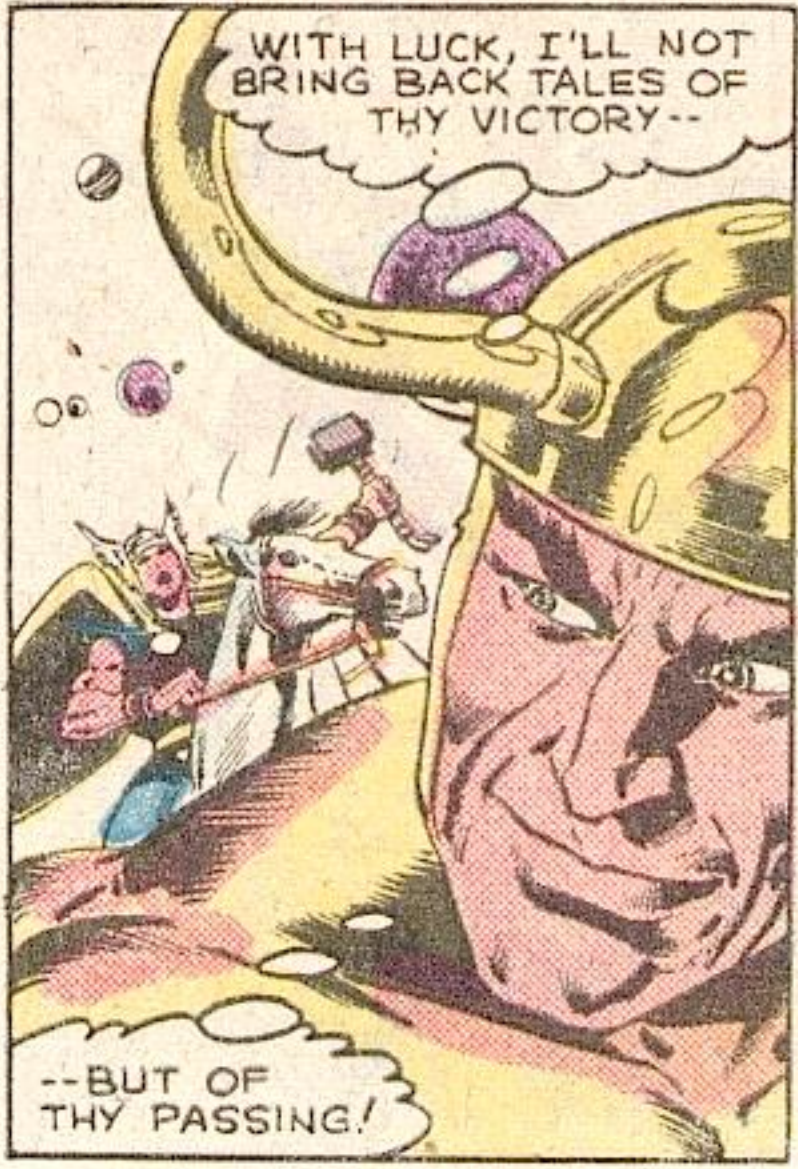


CAN I NOT DEAL WITH THIS DARK TRICKSTER?

TO HORSE, LOKI! THOU SHALT ACCOMPANY ME, AND BEAR WITNESS TO ALL WHO ASKED THAT THOR NE'ER SHIRKED A CHALLENGE!

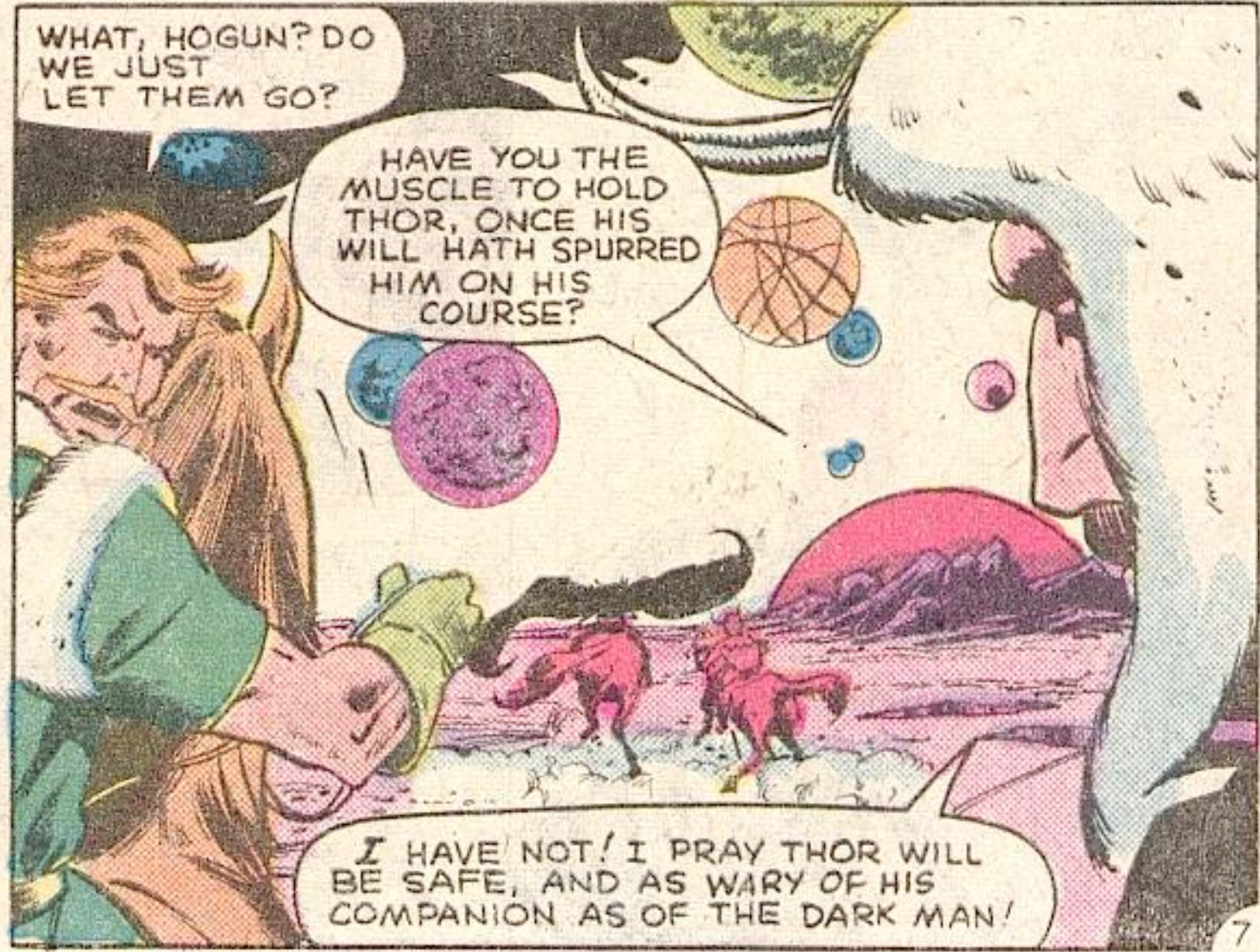
AS YOU WISH IT.

RETURN TO ASGARD, THE REST OF THEE, AND TELL OUR FATHER WHAT HATH OCCURRED!



WITH LUCK, I'LL NOT BRING BACK TALES OF THY VICTORY--

--BUT OF THY PASSING!



WHAT, HOGUN? DO WE JUST LET THEM GO?

HAVE YOU THE MUSCLE TO HOLD THOR, ONCE HIS WILL HATH SPURRED HIM ON HIS COURSE?

I HAVE NOT! I PRAY THOR WILL BE SAFE, AND AS WARY OF HIS COMPANION AS OF THE DARK MAN!



THREE DAYS LATER, NEAR THE NORTHERN EDGE OF ASGARD...

I... LIKE NOT THE LOOK OF THIS PLACE, THOR!

LET US HASTEN BACK TO ASGARD, BEFORE WE LOSE OUR WAY. I WILL TELL TALES OF THY GREAT BATTLES--AND NONE SHALL BE THE WISER!

NAY! THY LIES WOULD MEAN NOTHING, FOR I COULD NOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE LEND THEM SUBSTANCE!

FOR GOOD OR ILL, I WOULD SEE THIS MATTER THROUGH!

THOUGH I AM LOATH TO ADMIT IT, FEAR EATS AT MINE OWN SOUL! 'TIS TOO STRANGE A COUNTRY, AND WITH NARY AN INHABITANT.

SLY LOKI MUST NOT LEARN MY DEEPEST FEELINGS, FOR SURELY HE WOULD TURN THEM AGAINST ME.

BY ASGARD'S GLEAMING SPIRES!

SUDDENLY...

HEED THY BROTHER, THUNDER LORD! THESE ARE MY HUSBAND'S LANDS--AND NONE CROSS THIS BRIDGE E'RE THEY PASS BY ME!

A BRIDGE OF GOLD, WHICH RIVALS THE RAINBOW IN ITS GLORY! AND ON THE OTHER SIDE...

GLANCE BELOW, BROTHER! NONE COULD SURVIVE A PLUNGE INTO THAT CREVICE!

THREATEN OR CAJOLE AS THOU WOULDST--LOKI GOES NO FARTHER!



OTHERS HAVE PASSED THIS WAY-- BUT NONE LIKE THEE, I THINK!

WHAT IS THY BUSINESS? SPEAK!



WE... SEEK THE DARK MAN!

FORGET HIM-- I COULD DO THE BETTER FOR THEE!

BEWARE THE WITCH, BROTHER!

OR SUCCUMB TO HER! I CARE NOT WHICH!



MY HUSBAND IS ABROAD THESE MANY DAYS--AND I WOULD PLEASE THEE...



STAY WITH ME, BEAUTIFUL GOD...



THE DARK MAN WILL NOT MISS THEE!



NAY! THE DARK MAN HATH MY WORD THAT I SHALL APPEAR!

THOUGH MY HEART MAY YEARN FOR THEE, I CANNOT STRAY FROM MY QUEST!



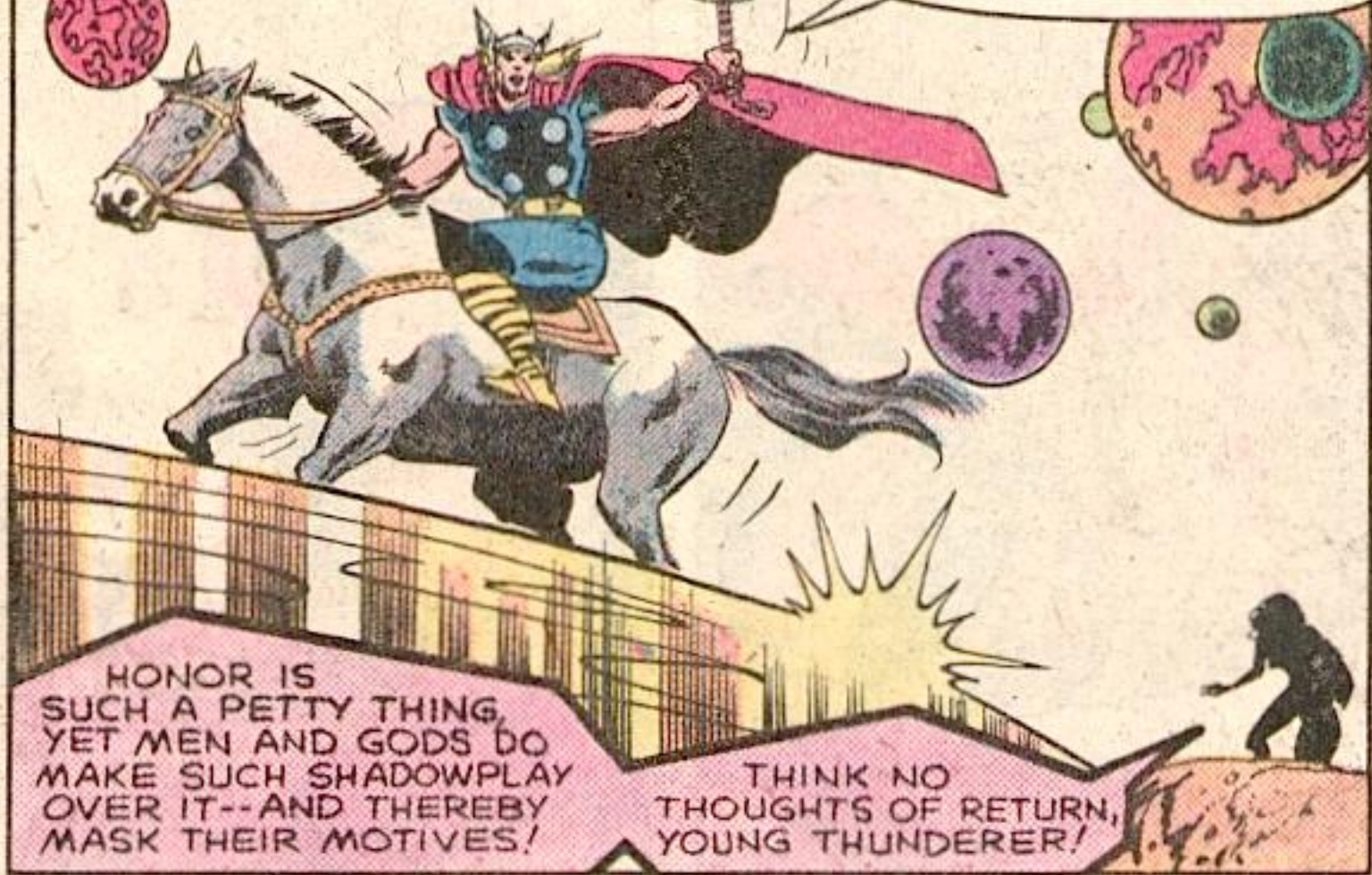
LOKI!

FEAR DRIVES HIM BACK, AS IT DRIVES YOU ONWARD!

I SHALL REMEMBER THEE, SORCERESS, FOR THOU HAST DAMAGED MINE HONOR IN MY BROTHER'S EYES!



WHEN MY QUEST IS O'ER, I SHALL RETURN-- AND THEN, PERHAPS, I SHALL TRY THY FAVORS!



HONOR IS SUCH A PETTY THING, YET MEN AND GODS DO MAKE SUCH SHADOWPLAY OVER IT--AND THEREBY MASK THEIR MOTIVES!

THINK NO THOUGHTS OF RETURN, YOUNG THUNDERER!

THIS BRIDGE WAS NOT BUILT TO BEAR YOU, WHO ART HEAVY WITH THE BREATH OF LIFE!



**KRA-A-ACK!**

MY STEED IS FALLEN--AND THOUGH I MIGHT REACH YON WALL, 'TIS SHEER AND WITHOUT MASS TO GRIP!



YET AM I GOD OF STRENGTH, AS WELL AS THUNDER! IF THE WALL ALLOWS NO HANDHOLDS--



--I SHALL MAKE MINE OWN!



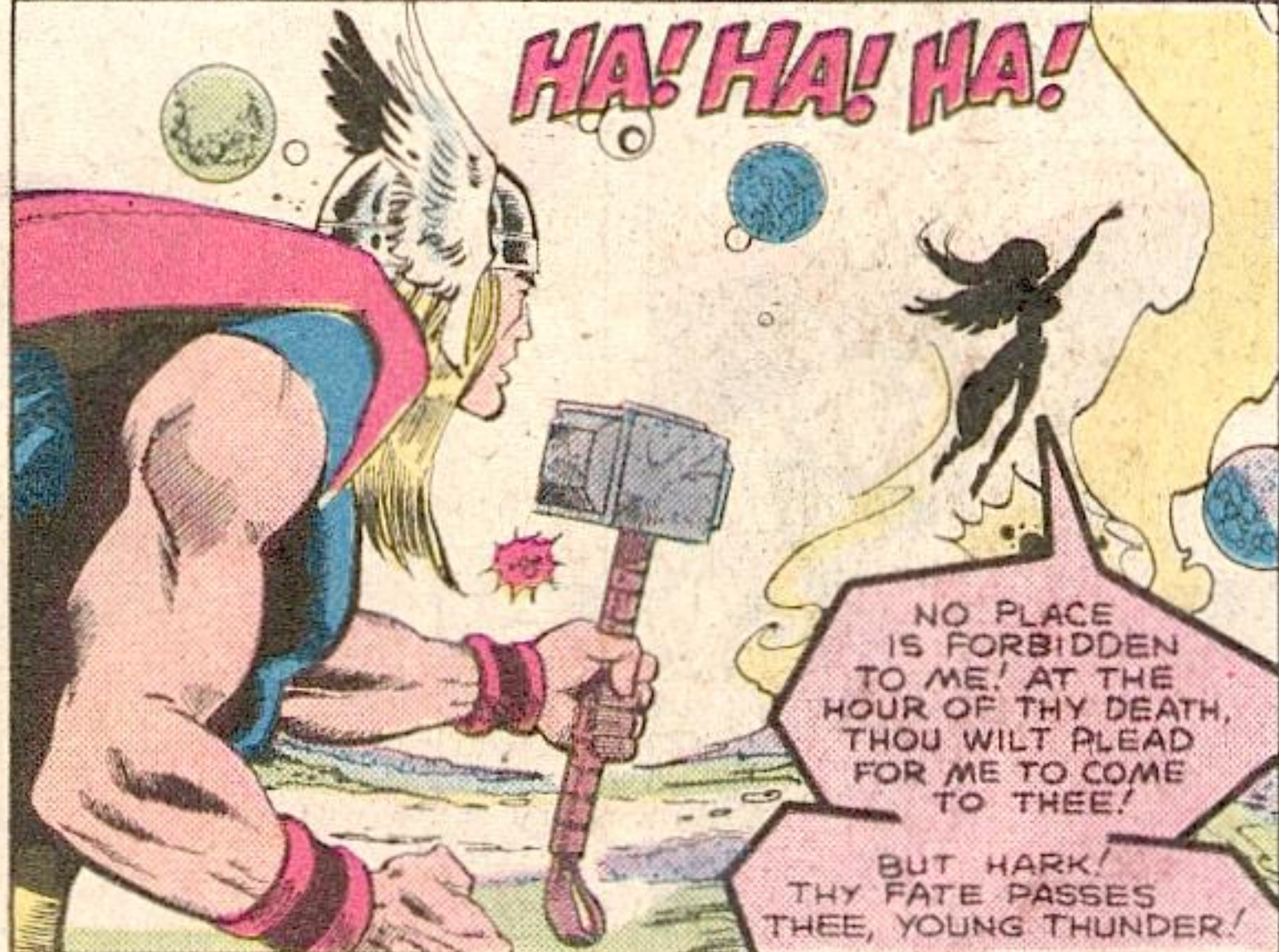
THOU CLINGEST WELL TO LIFE, FOR ONE WHO LOVES HER NOT!



EH?! THE WOMAN!



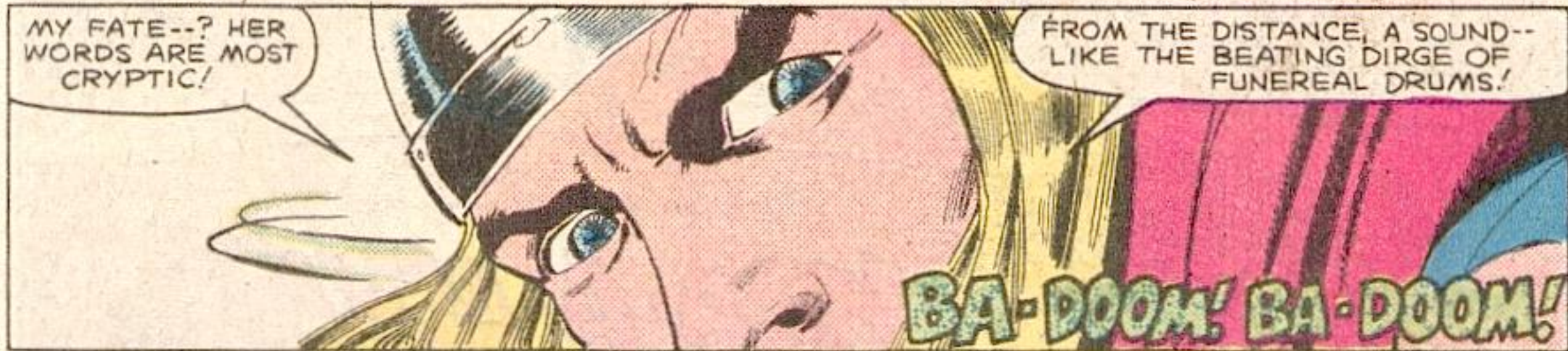
I KNOW NOT HOW THOU REACHED THIS EDGE OF THE CHASM, WOMAN, BUT--



HA! HA! HA!

NO PLACE IS FORBIDDEN TO ME! AT THE HOUR OF THY DEATH, THOU WILT PLEAD FOR ME TO COME TO THEE!

BUT HARK! THY FATE PASSES THEE, YOUNG THUNDER!



MY FATE--? HER WORDS ARE MOST CRYPTIC!

FROM THE DISTANCE, A SOUND-- LIKE THE BEATING DIRGE OF FUNERAL DRUMS!

BA-DOOM! BA-DOOM!



THE DARK MAN!

BA-DOOM! BA-DOOM!



HE PASSES BY-- WITHOUT A GLANCE!

HALT, KNAVE!



I HAVE NOT COME SO FAR TO BE FURTHER MOCKED BY--

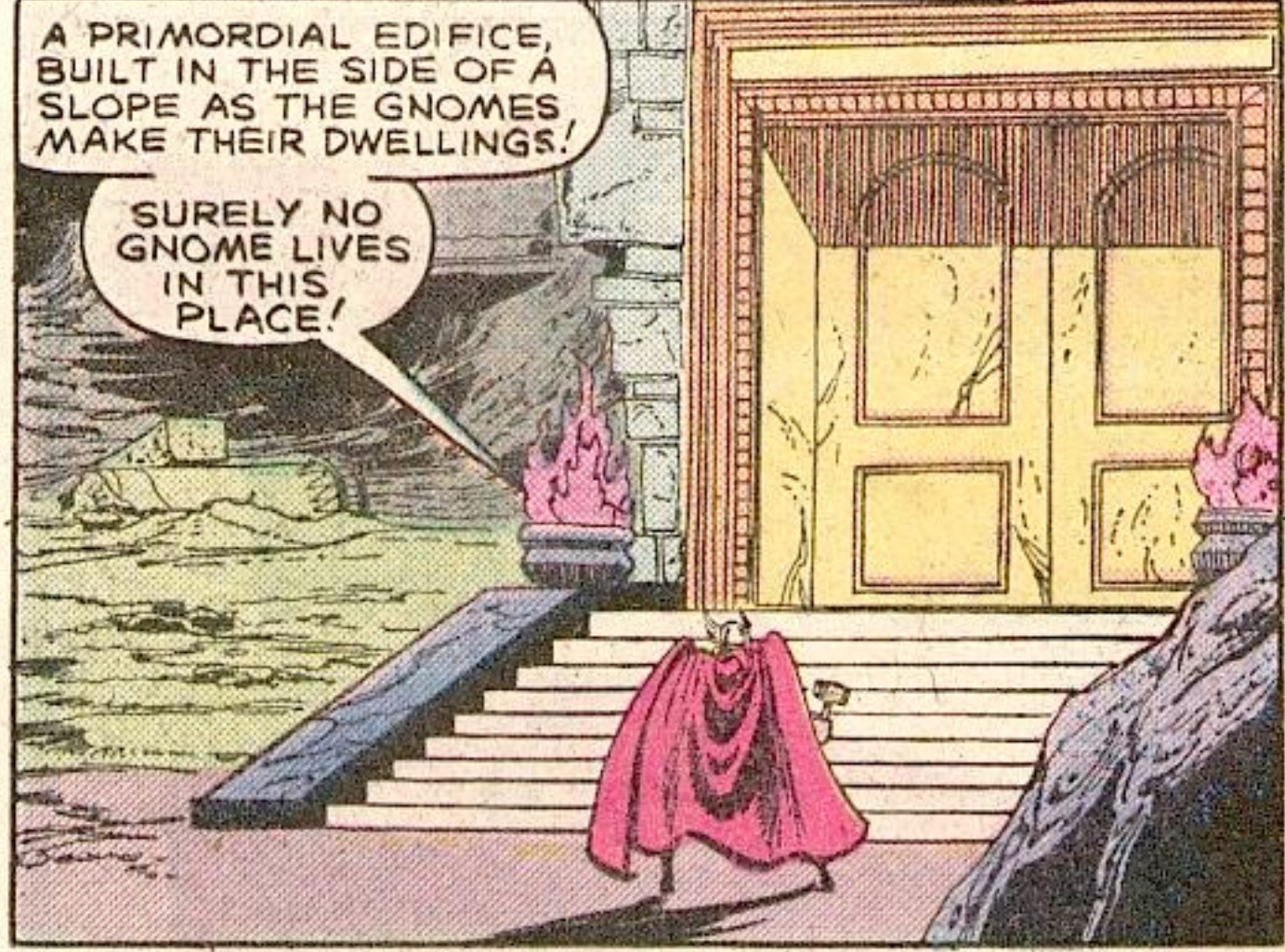


-- THEE?!

HEIMDALL'S EYES!

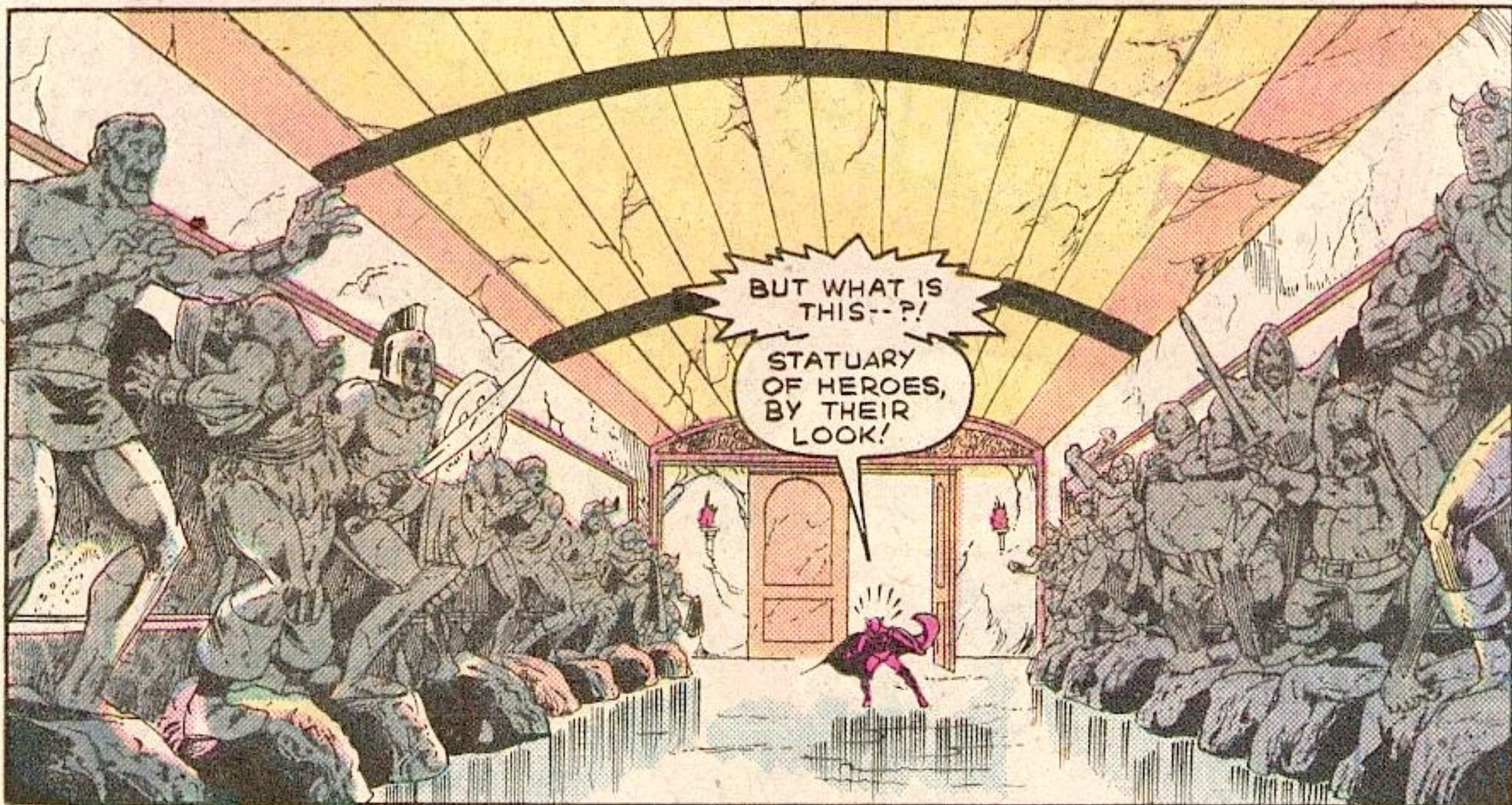
A PRIMORDIAL EDIFICE,  
BUILT IN THE SIDE OF A  
SLOPE AS THE GNOMES  
MAKE THEIR DWELLINGS!

SURELY NO  
GNOME LIVES  
IN THIS  
PLACE!



THE SIZE OF  
THESE DOORS  
DECLARES THAT  
HERE IS THE  
STRONGHOLD  
OF THE DARK  
MAN, OR ONE AS  
MONSTROUS!

NO DOOR,  
HOWEVER  
HUGE, SHALL  
E'ER RESIST  
THE GOD OF  
THUNDER!



BUT WHAT IS  
THIS--?!

STATUARY  
OF HEROES,  
BY THEIR  
LOOK!



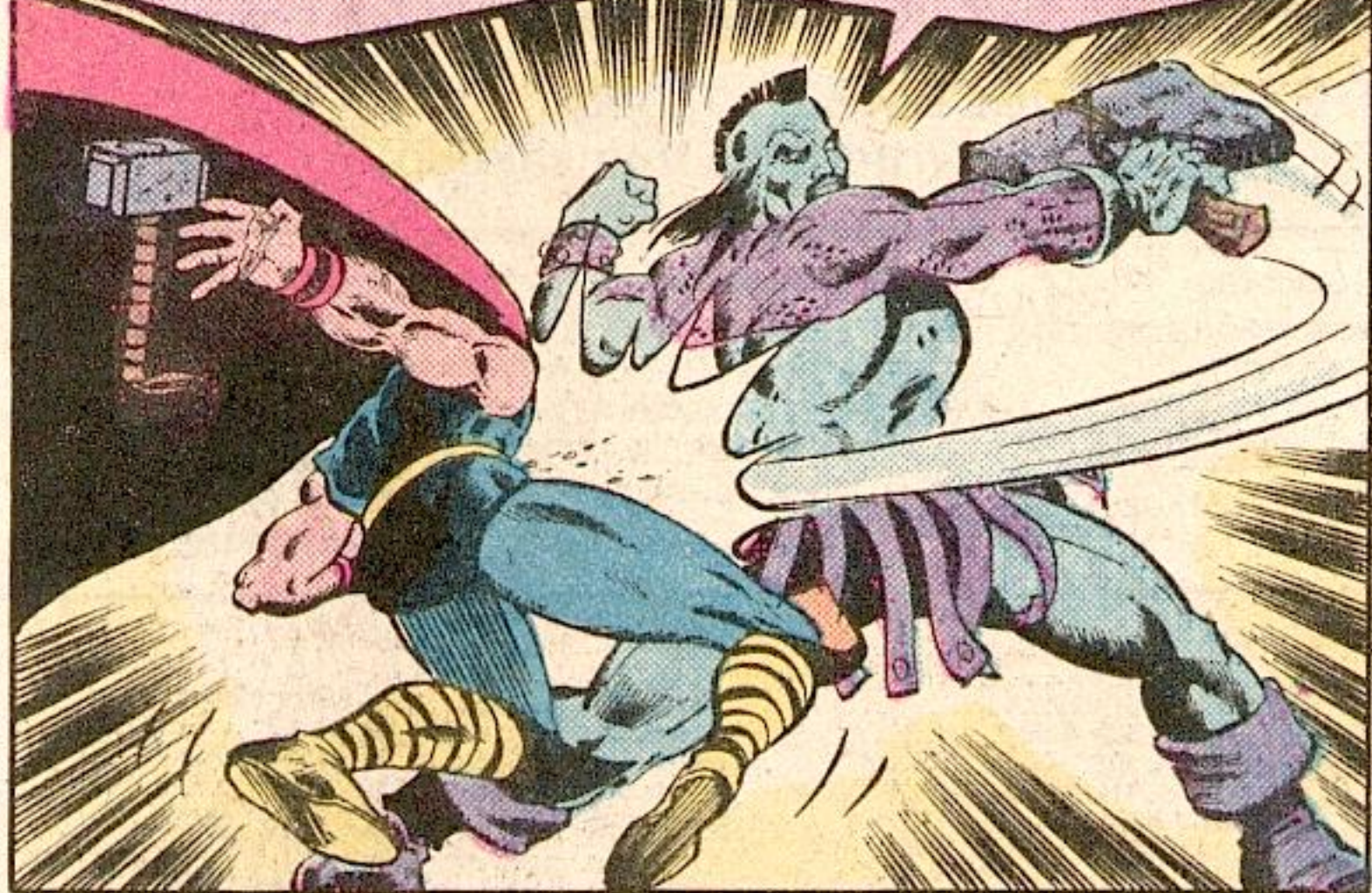
YET... ALL  
FACES ARE  
TWISTED INTO  
MASKS OF  
TERROR! 'TIS  
MOST CHILLING...



HEROES ALL  
THEY WERE--  
ERE I FELLED  
THEM!

MIGHTY OAKS THEY WERE--  
YET MY AX BROUGHT THEM  
LOW!

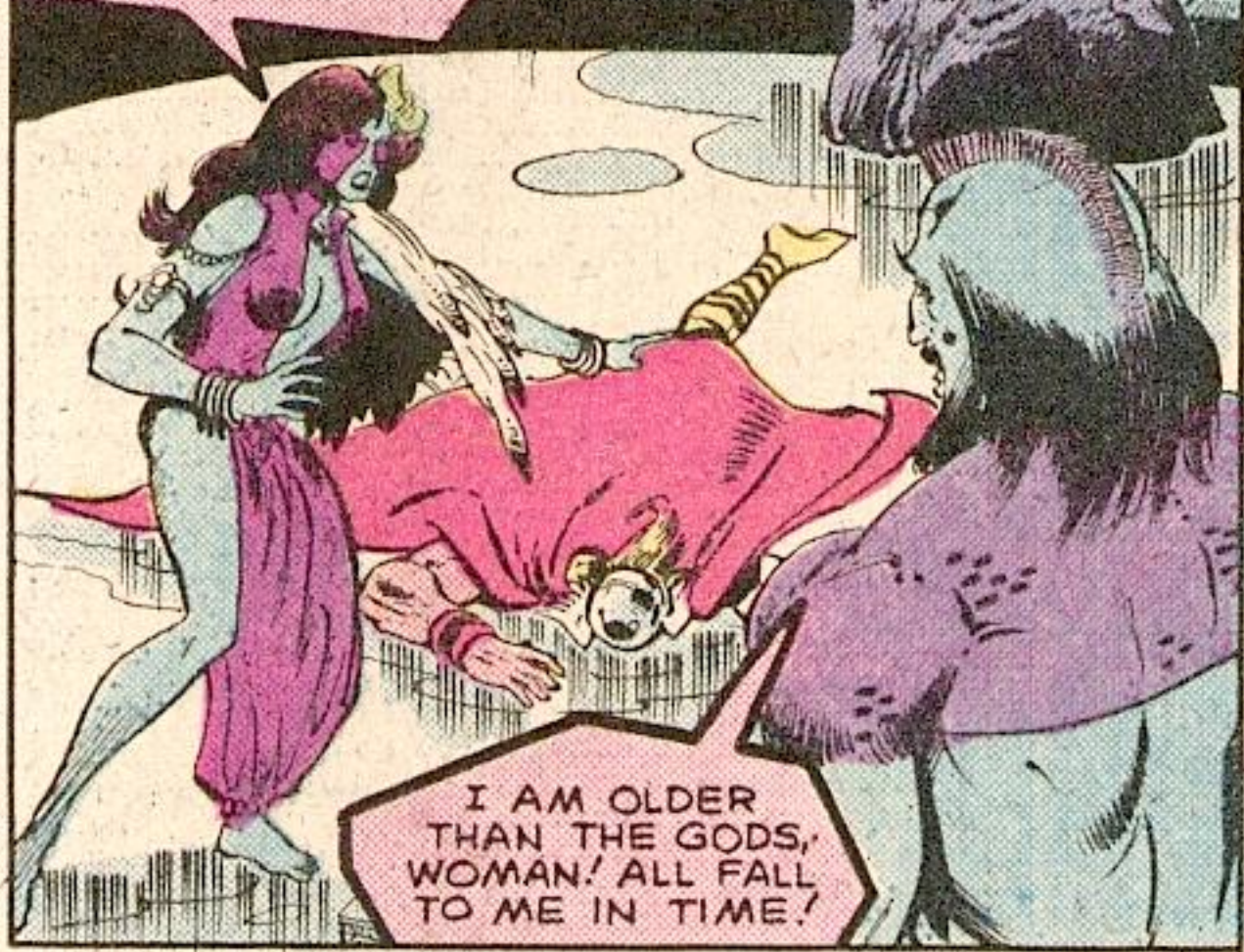
I PROMISED TO STRIKE YOU A  
BLOW, ODIN-WHELP! TAKE IT!



SUDDENLY FROM  
THE SHADOWS...

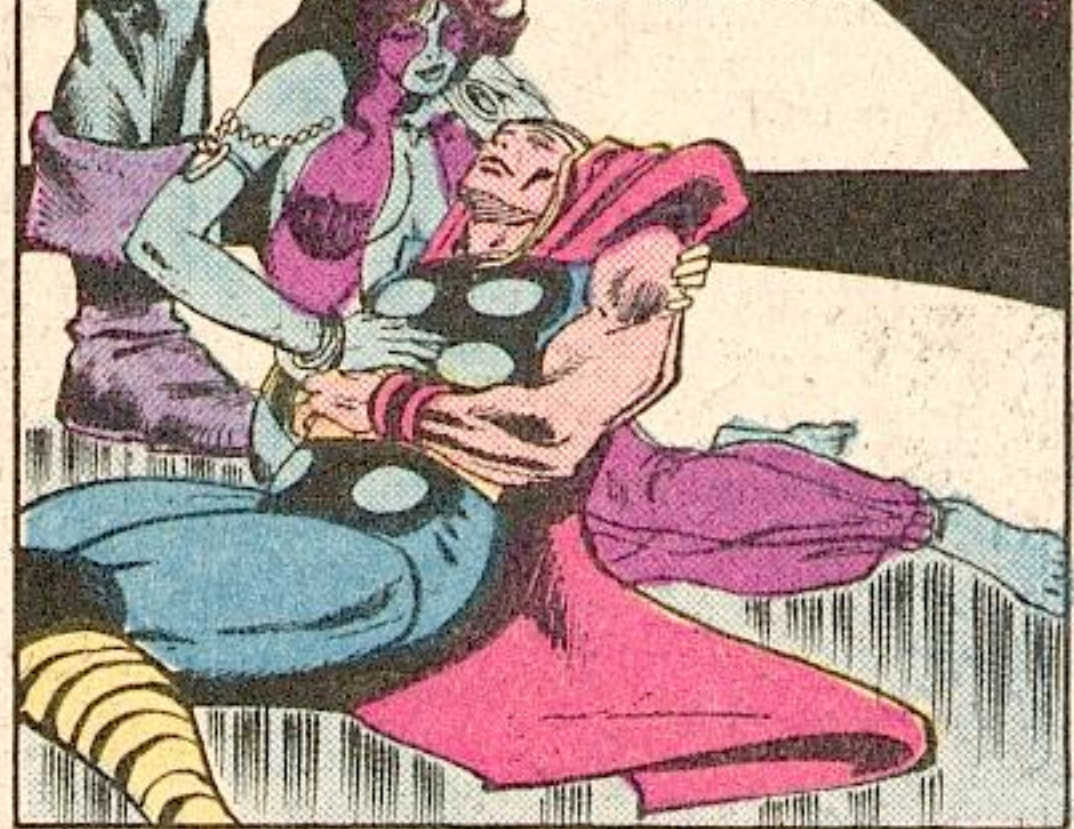


THIS ONE SHALL  
NOT BELONG TO  
THEE, HUSBAND!



I AM OLDER  
THAN THE GODS,  
WOMAN! ALL FALL  
TO ME IN TIME!

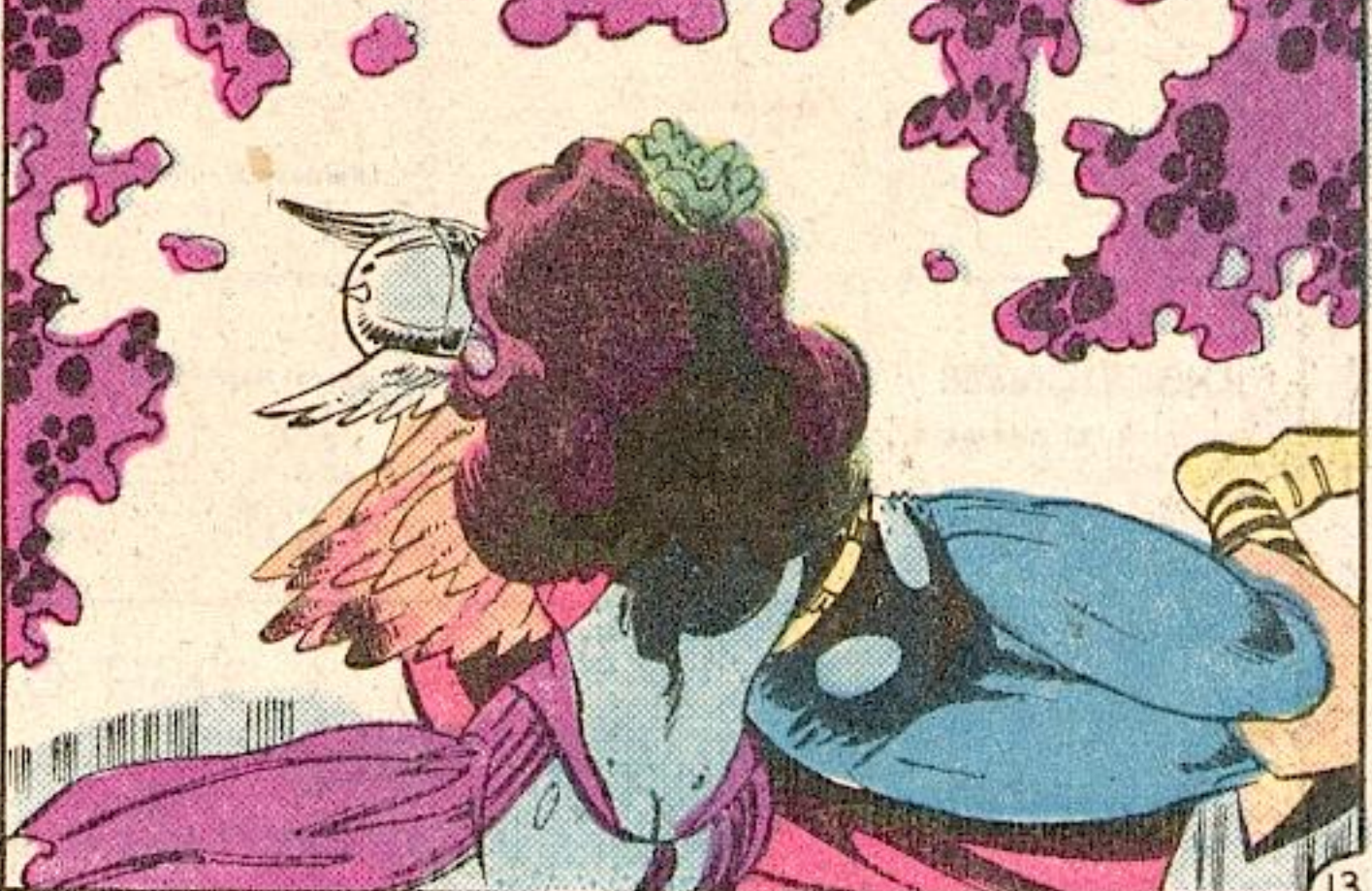
THOU ART LOSING  
THY TOUCH, HUSBAND--  
THIS ONE STILL BREATHES!  
AS HE LIVES, HE  
SHALL BE A TROPHY  
NOT IN THY HALL--

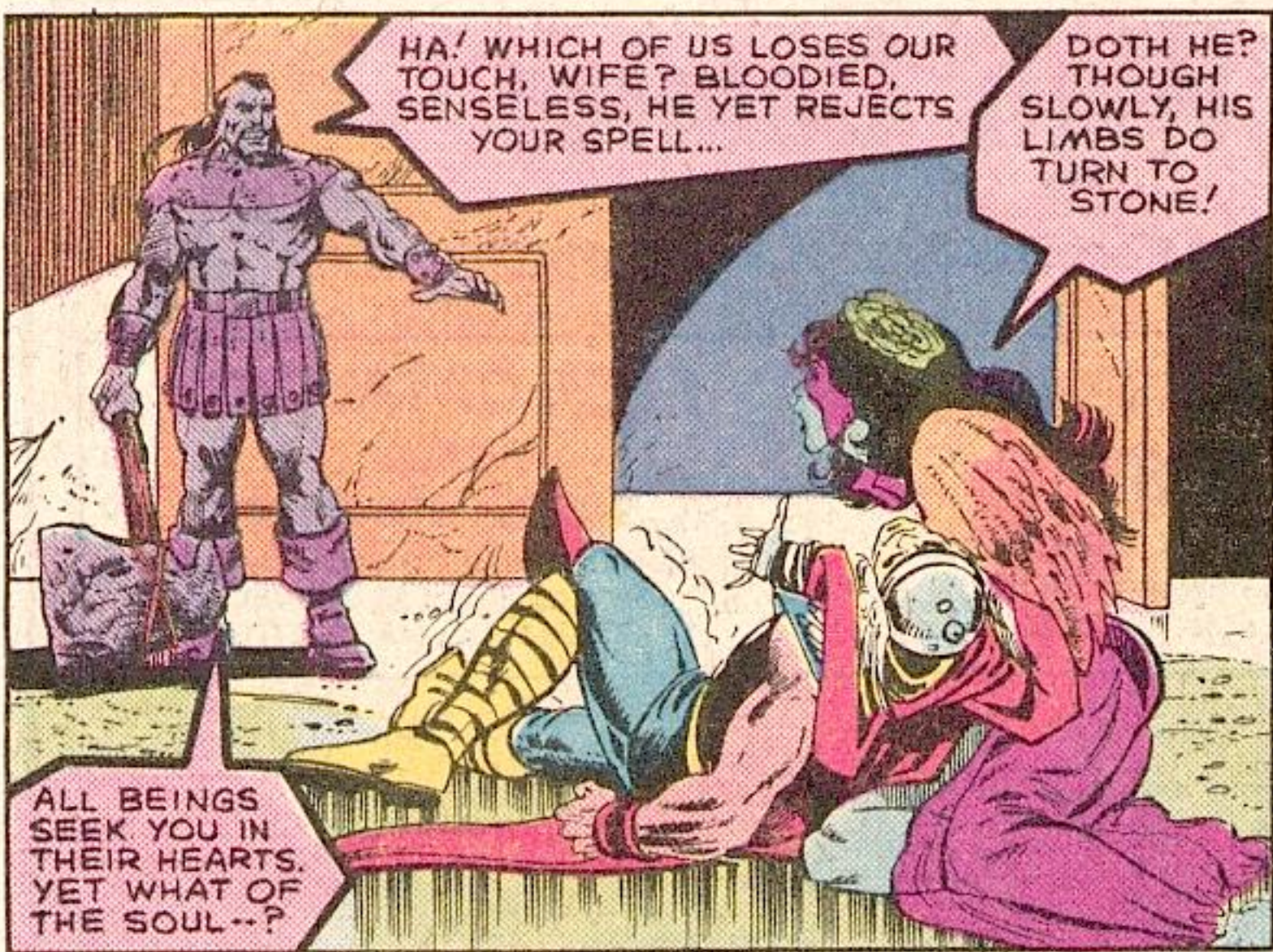


-- BUT IN MINE!  
SLEEP, YOUNG  
THUNDERER--  
THE SLEEP OF  
ETERNITY  
AWAITS THEE!



STATUE THOU  
SHALT BE-- WITH  
JUST A KISS!





HA! WHICH OF US LOSES OUR TOUCH, WIFE? BLOODIED, SENSELESS, HE YET REJECTS YOUR SPELL...

DO TH HE? THOUGH SLOWLY, HIS LIMBS DO TURN TO STONE!

ALL BEINGS SEEK YOU IN THEIR HEARTS. YET WHAT OF THE SOUL--?



AWAKEN, YOUNG THUNDERER-- AND TELL US!

EH?



THOU ART WOUNDED, ODIN-SON! LET ME HEAL THEE!

AWAY, WOMAN! THOR MUST BATTLE... FOR HIS HONOR...

WHAT?! ART THOU NOT AFRAID OF DEATH?



AYE--YET THERE ARE THINGS WORSE THAN DEATH!

YOU SEE, WIFE? ALL BEINGS SEEK YOU-- BUT THEY COME TO ME!



TAKE THIS FOOLISH YOUNG GOD, THEN! I WASH MY HANDS OF HIM!

SPARE ME THY RIDDLES!

SPLENDID!

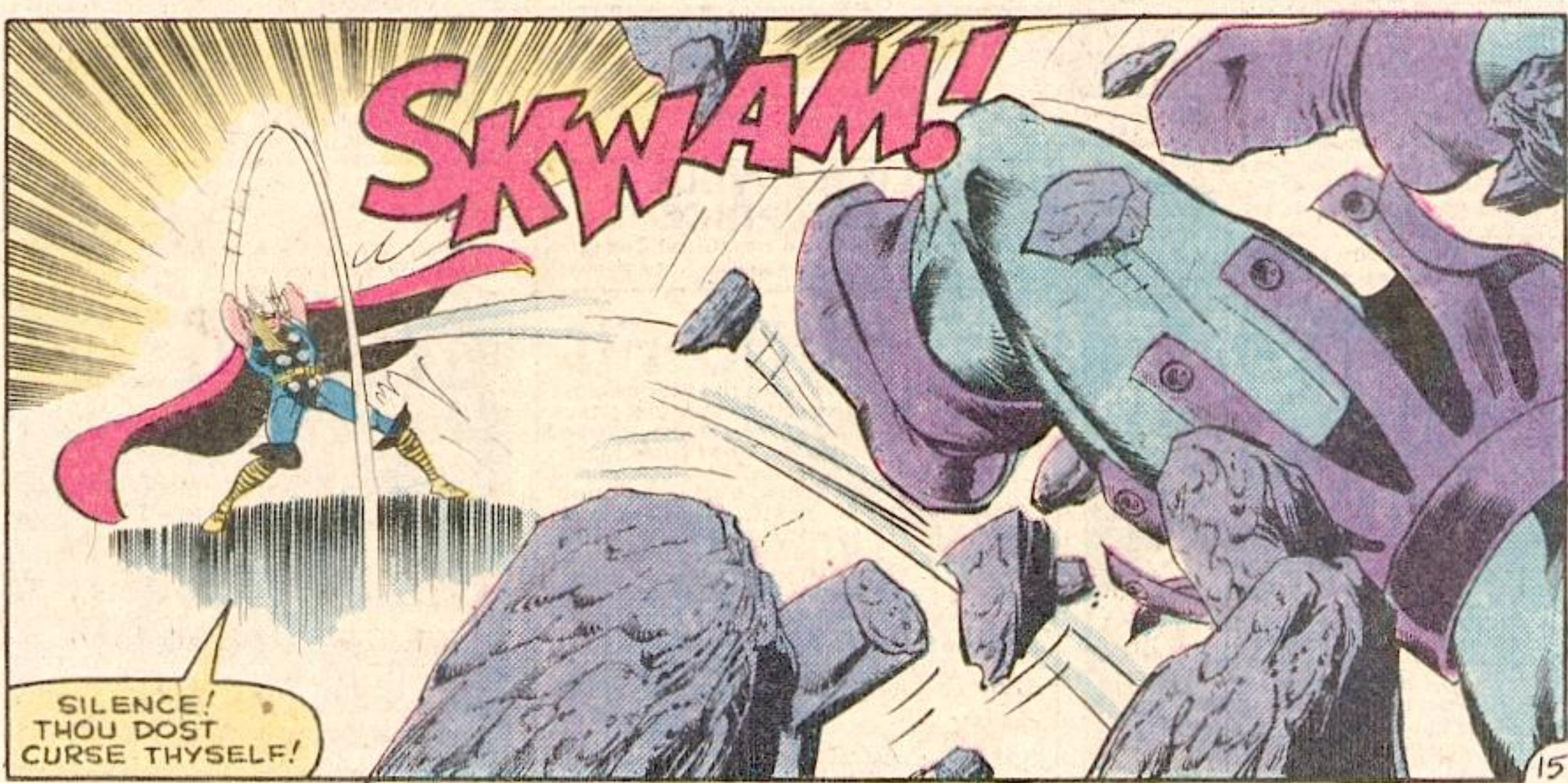


I HAVE WITHSTOOD MUCH FROM THEE, DARK ONE! I WOULD REPAY THEE--WITH BATTLE!



HAVE AT YOU, ASGARDIAN!

AND CURSED BE HIM WHO FIRST CRIES FOR MERCY!



SKWAM!

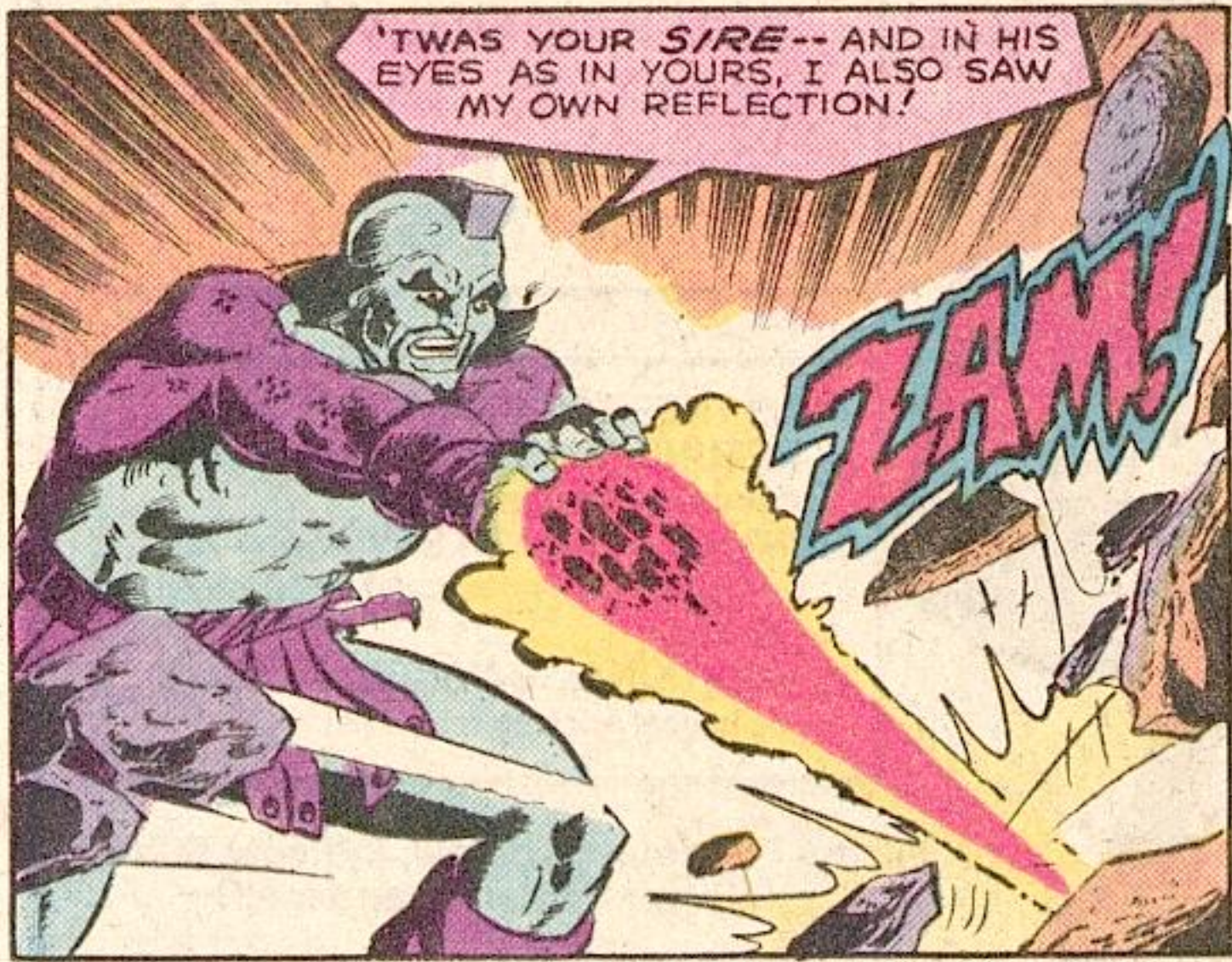
SILENCE! THOU DOST CURSE THYSELF!





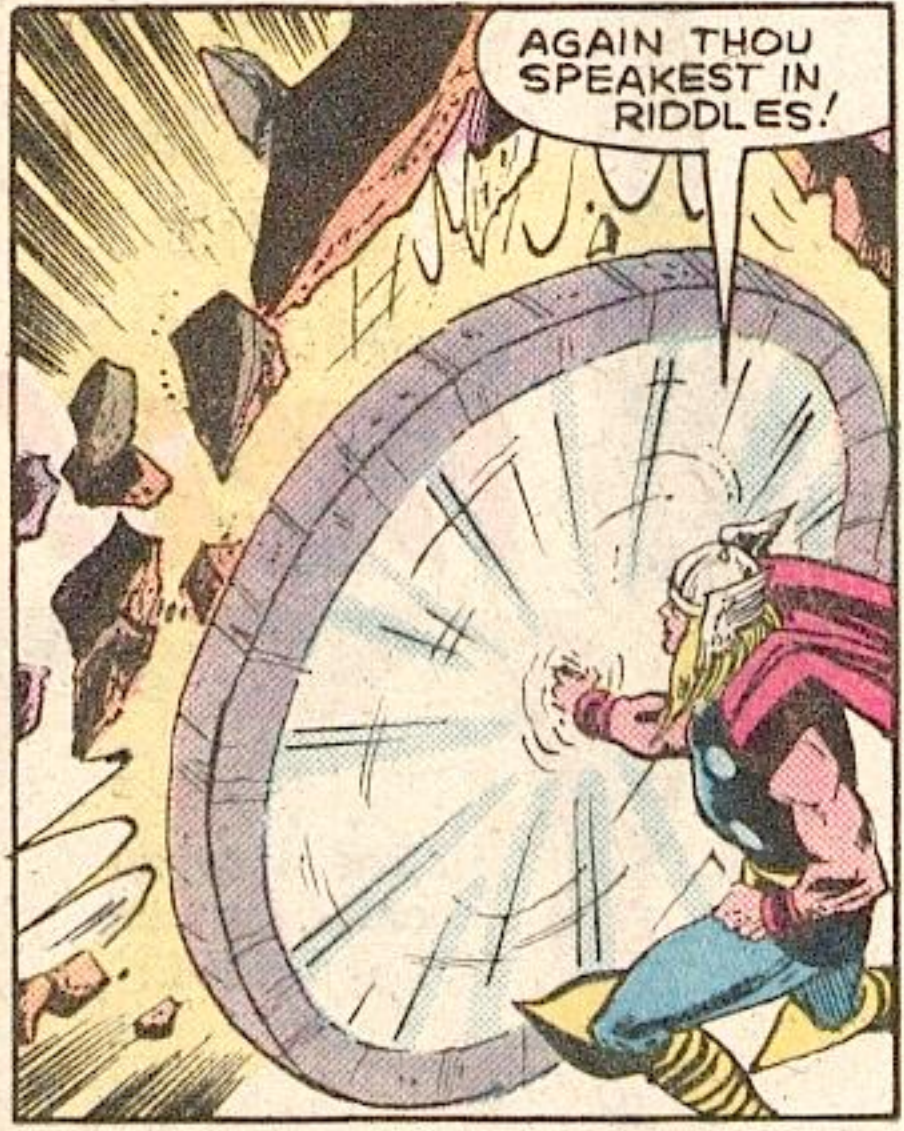
WELL MET!  
OF ALL I HAVE FOUGHT,  
ONLY ONE OTHER HAS  
PROVEN SUCH A  
CHALLENGE!

**FOM!**

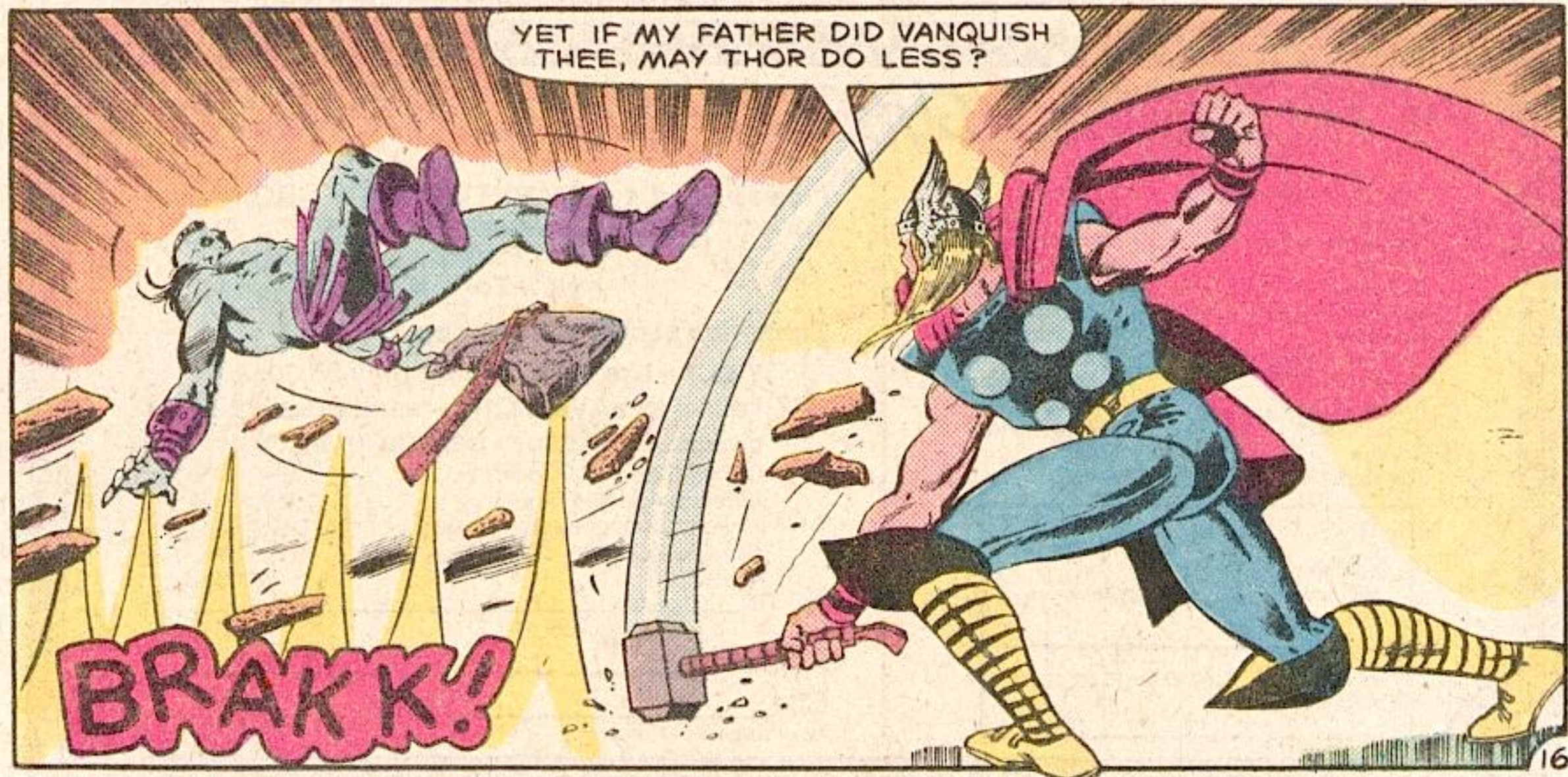


'TWAS YOUR *SIRE*-- AND IN HIS  
EYES AS IN YOURS, I ALSO SAW  
MY OWN REFLECTION!

**ZAM!**



AGAIN THOU  
SPEAKEST IN  
RIDDLES!



YET IF MY FATHER DID VANQUISH  
THEE, MAY THOR DO LESS?

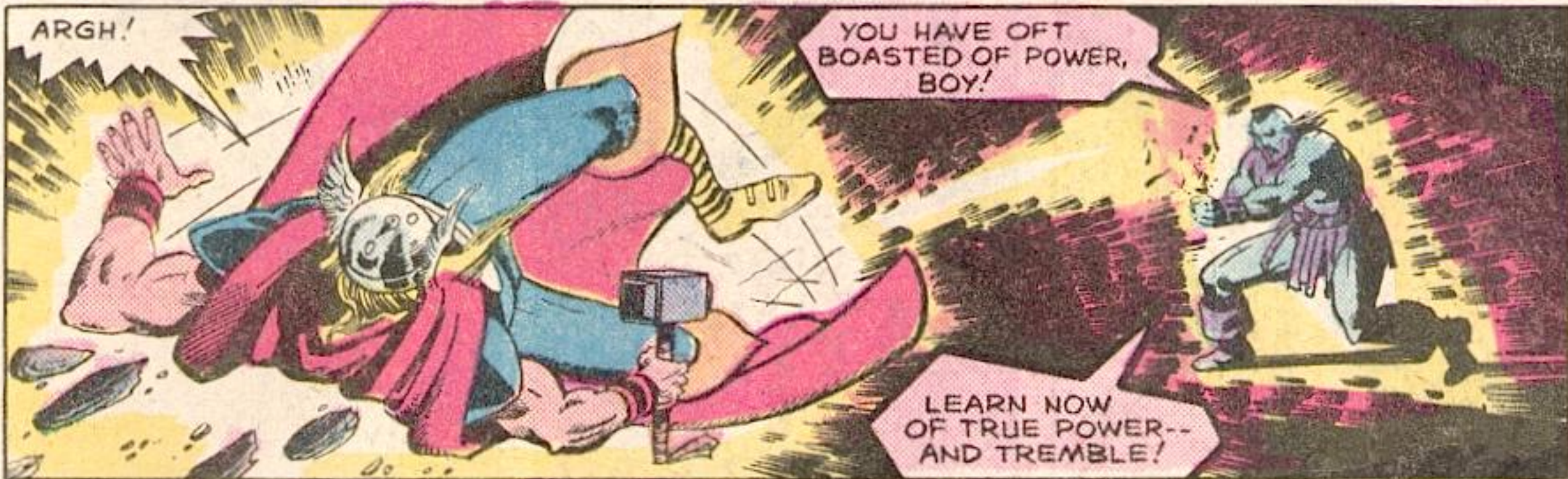
**BRAKK!**



THIS PLACE SHUDDERS WITH THE FURY OF COMBAT!



LET THE YOUNG THUNDERER PERISH IN HIS PRIDE! MY HUSBAND CANNOT BE DESTROYED--AND OTHERS A'PLENTY SHALL BE MY VICTIMS!



ARGH!

YOU HAVE OFT BOASTED OF POWER, BOY!

LEARN NOW OF TRUE POWER-- AND TREMBLE!

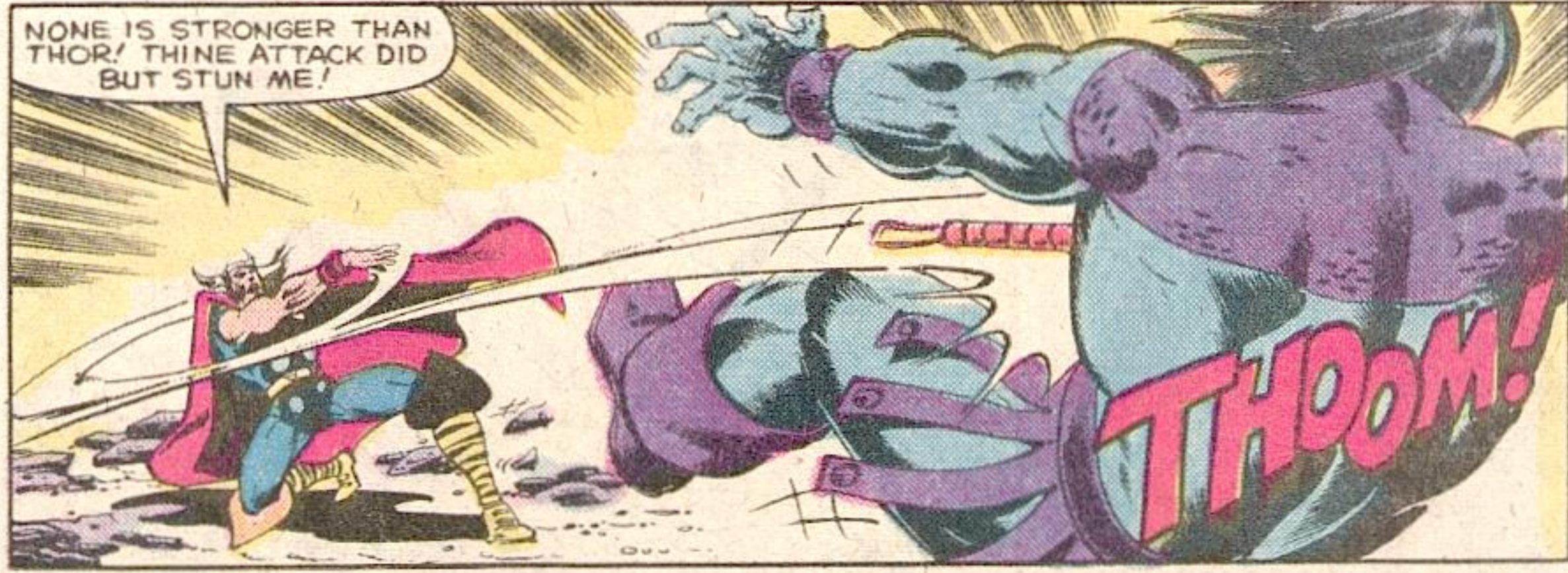


YOU FOUGHT FROM FEAR-- FEAR OF SHAME, FEAR OF DEFEAT-- AND NOW YOU ARE BROKEN BY ME!



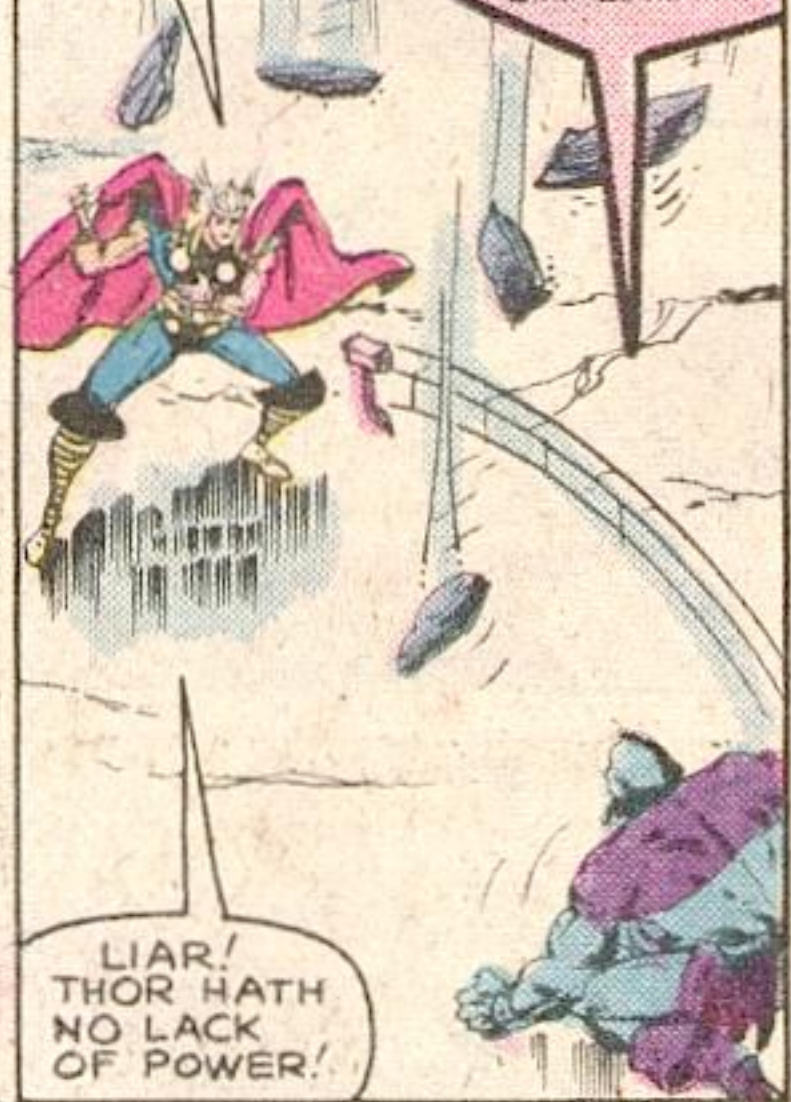
A PITY! FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT YOU STRONGER-- BUT YOUR STRENGTH BETRAYED YOU!

NONE IS STRONGER THAN THOR! THINE ATTACK DID BUT STUN ME!

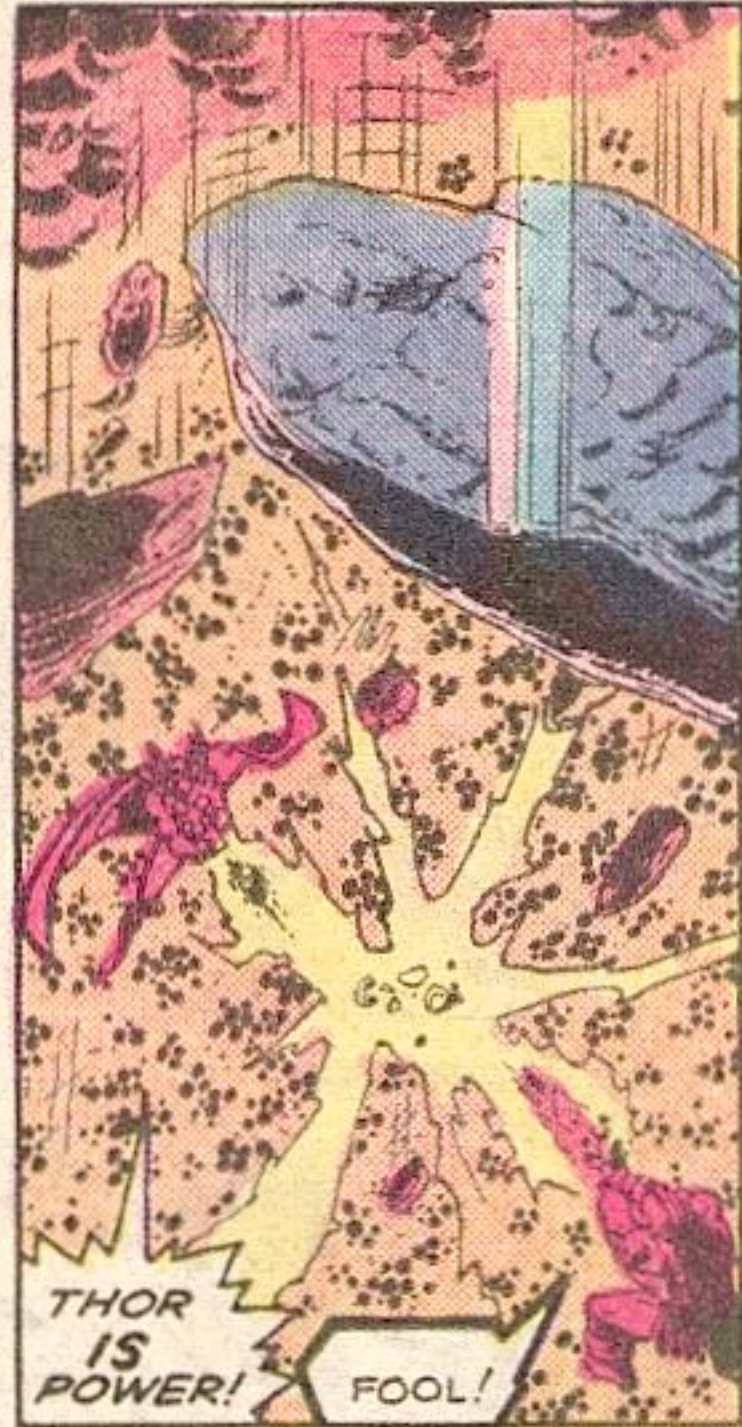


NO SLY WORDS, DARK ONE? DOST THOU FEEL THE POWER THAT THOU HAST MOCKED?

YOU HAVE FORCE OF ARM, I GRANT YOU-- BUT YOU ARE YET SHY OF INNER STRENGTH!



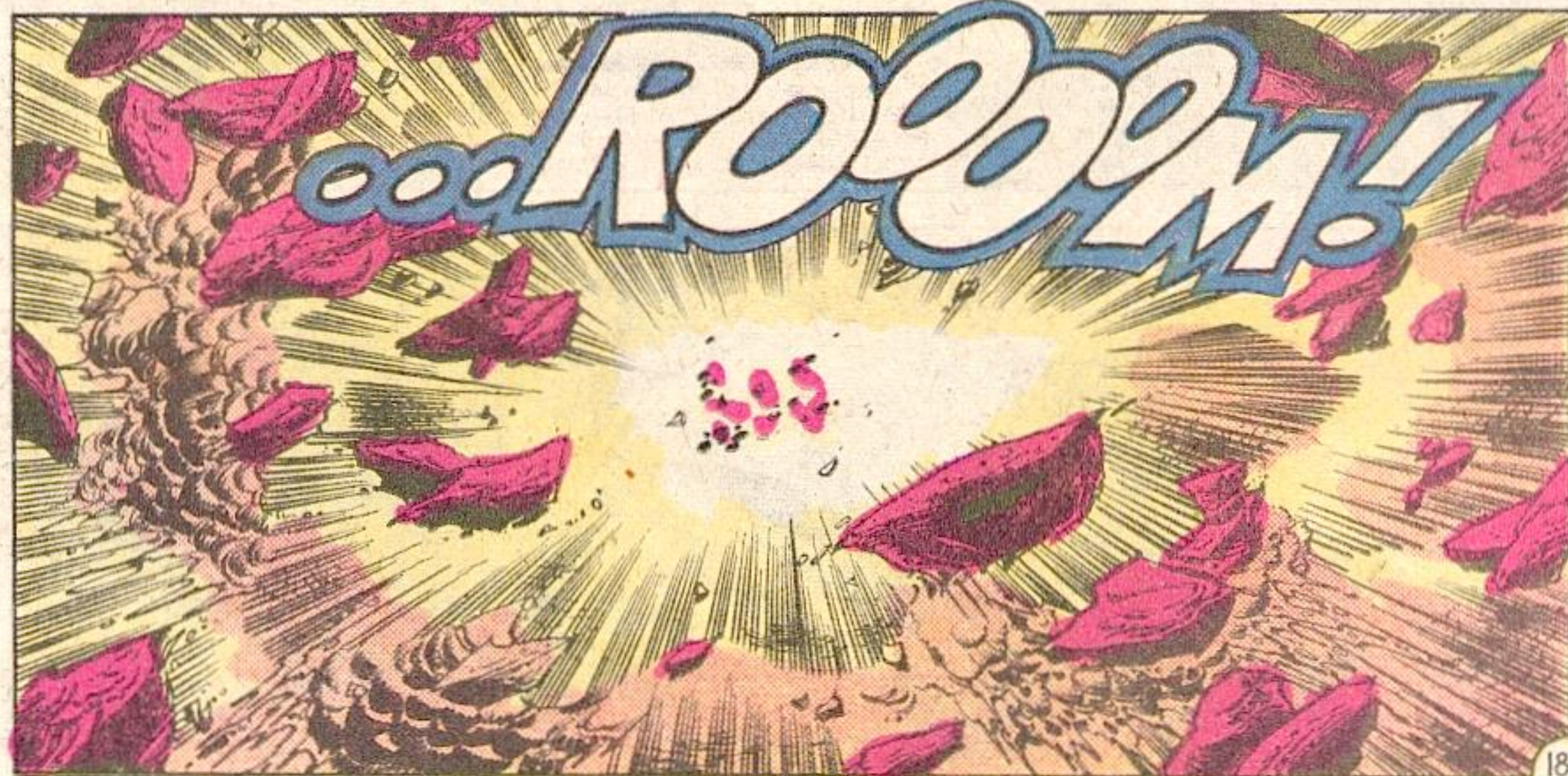
LIAR! THOR HATH NO LACK OF POWER!



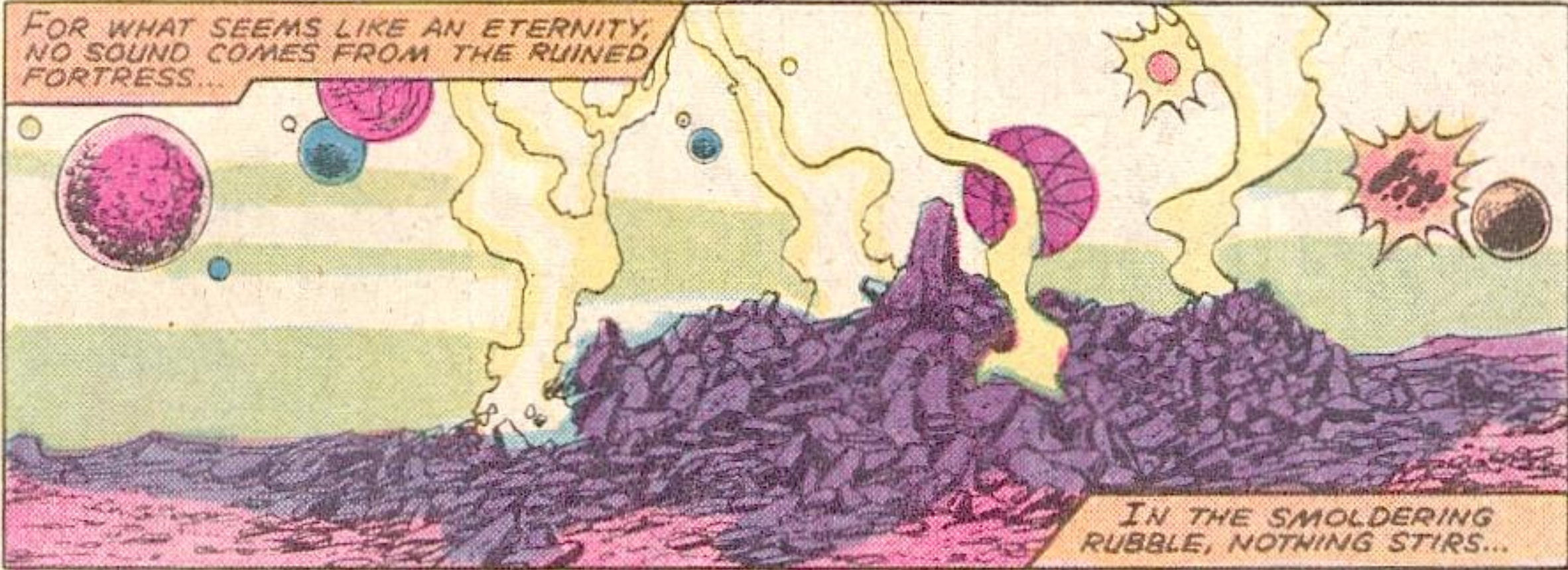
THOR IS POWER!

FOOL!

THE FORCES WE UNLEASH CANNOT BE CONTAINED!



FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY,  
NO SOUND COMES FROM THE RUINED  
FORTRESS...



IN THE SMOLDERING  
RUBBLE, NOTHING STIRS...

THEN...

OH, I  
HURT! BUT,  
THANK ODIN,  
I LIVE!



WHAT  
OF THE  
DARK  
ONE?

WHAT OF  
HIM, GODLING?  
WHAT OF HIM?



NAY...

AYE! THOUGH THE STARS THEM-  
SELVES SHOULD DIE, I AM!



DEATH CALLS YOU BY YOUR  
NAME, YOUNG THUNDERER--  
AND ALL YOUR STRUGGLES  
SIMPLY SEAL YOUR FATE!

NO... 'TIS *NOT* MY  
END... IT MUST NOT BE...



TO DIE IN BATTLE... AMONG  
COMRADES-- ONLY THAT DOETH  
SUIT ME. MAIDENS WOULD SING  
SONGS OF IT... TO BE PASSED  
DOWN THE GENERATIONS...



BUT TO DIE LIKE THIS,  
WITHOUT WITNESS TO TELL  
THE TALE... *IT MUST NOT BE...*

WARRIOR'S PRIDE! AND WHAT IS PRIDE BUT FEAR MISNAMED?  
YOU SURPRISE ME, YOUNG ONE...

HAVE YOU NOT YET GUESSED WHAT I AM?  
AYE...

...THOU ART DEATH INCARNATE!

HA! YOUR DEATH, PERHAPS... BUT NO, I AM NOT DEATH!

YOUR SIRE KNEW, BUT YOU DO NOT--

--AND THAT WILL COST YOU ALL!  
THY RIDDLES SHALL NOT SLAY ME...  
LET ME BUT REACH THE HAMMER MJOLNIR... AND THOU SHALT SEE HOW HARD THOR DIES.

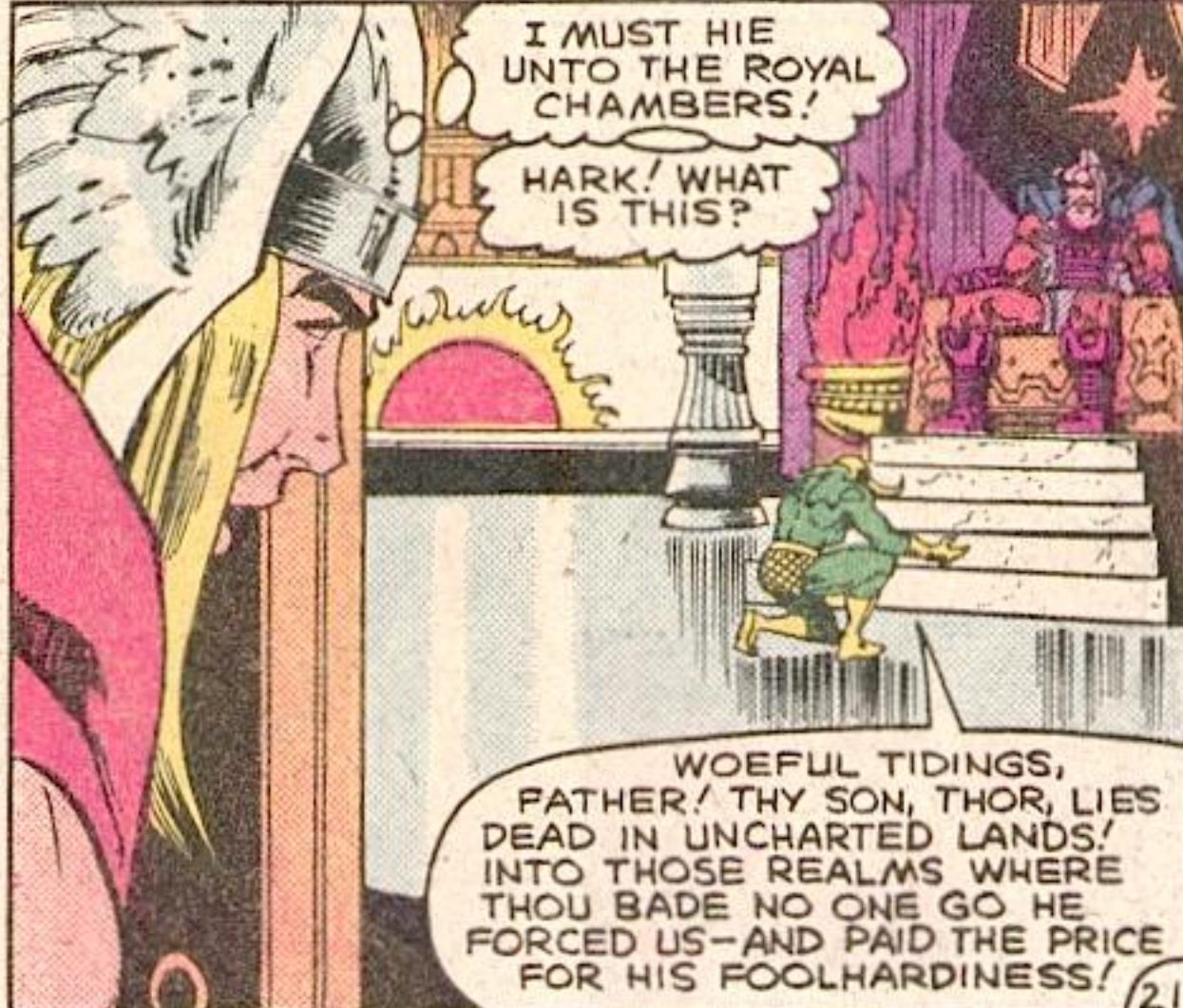
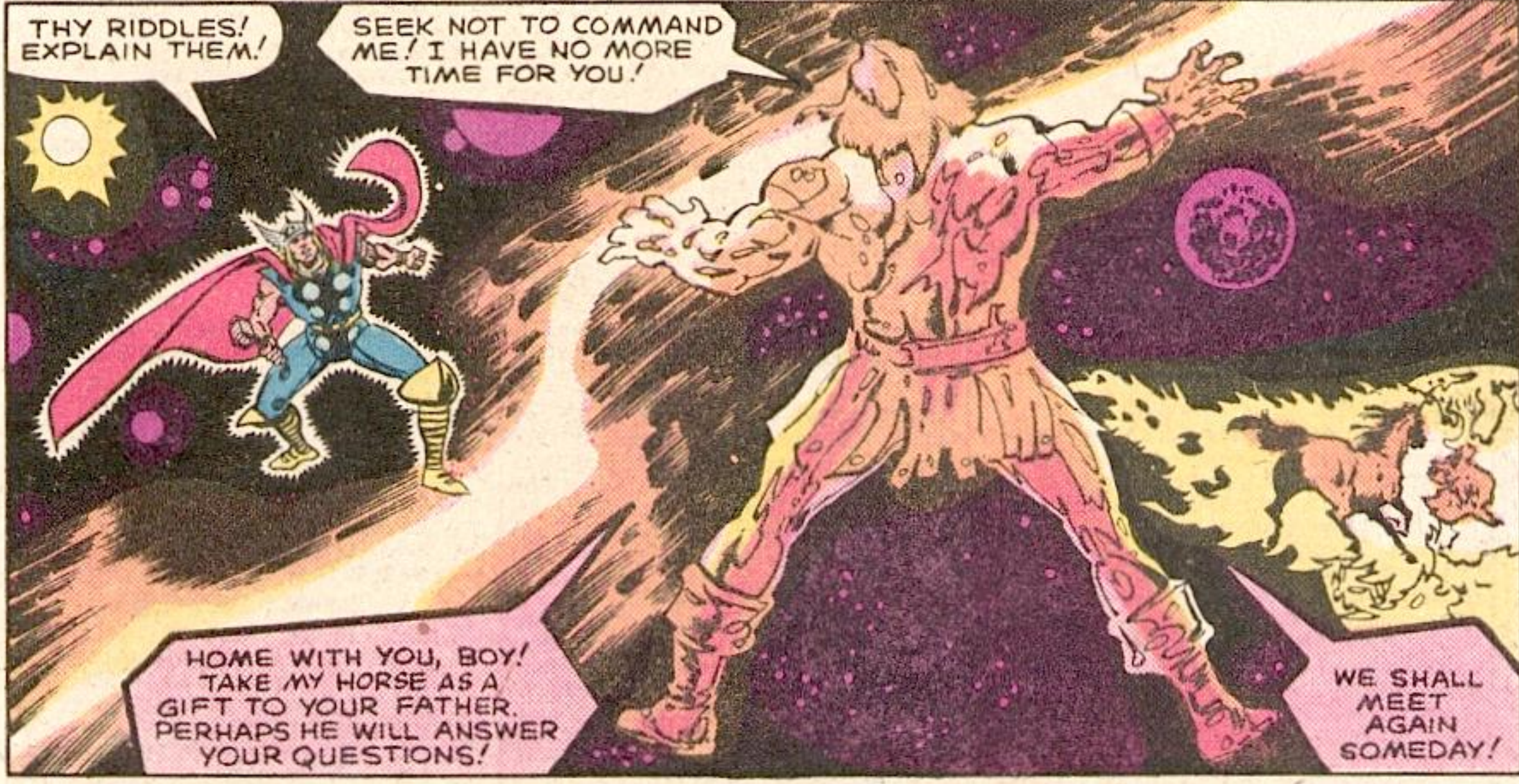
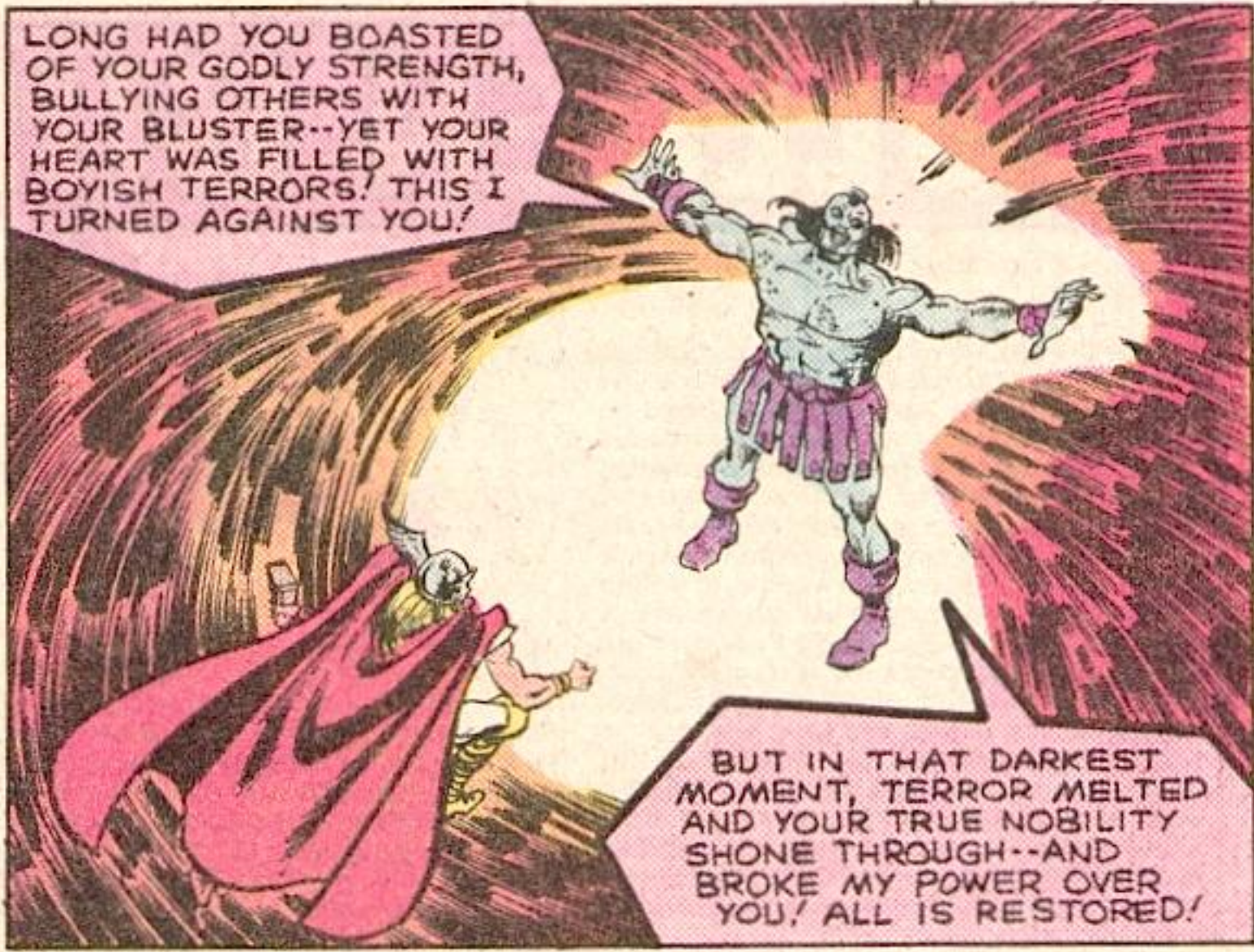
TOO LATE! ALL WEAPONS ARE BEYOND YOU--

--SAVE MINE!  
THOUGH MY TONGUE YEARNS TO CRY FOR MERCY... I SHALL NOT BEG...

I WISH ONLY THAT MY FATHER MIGHT KNOW HIS SON DIED... NOT A COWARD, BUT A TRUE SON OF ODIN...

WHAT?! EVEN AS I STRIKE, HIS SOUL SPEAKS OF LOVE!

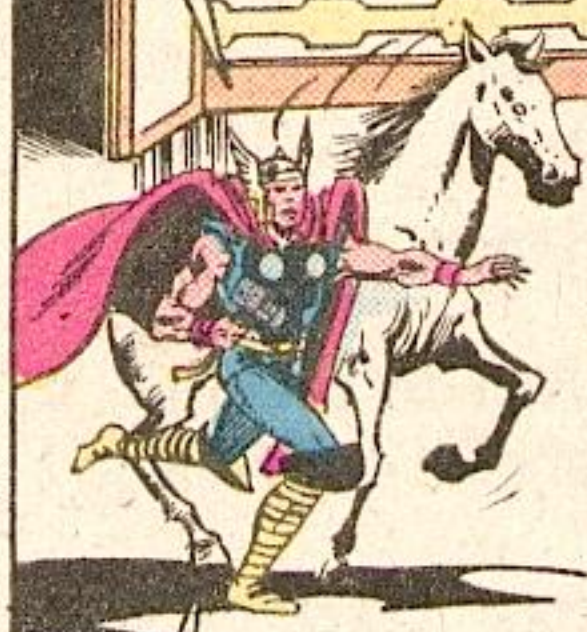
NO PRIDE, NO FEAR -- LOVE!  
LOVE ONLY!



THOU ART IN ERROR, LOKI!

THOR!

--BUT AGAINST FEAR, AND HIS BRIDE, DESIRE! I, TOO, MET THEM, AS ALL BEINGS DO!

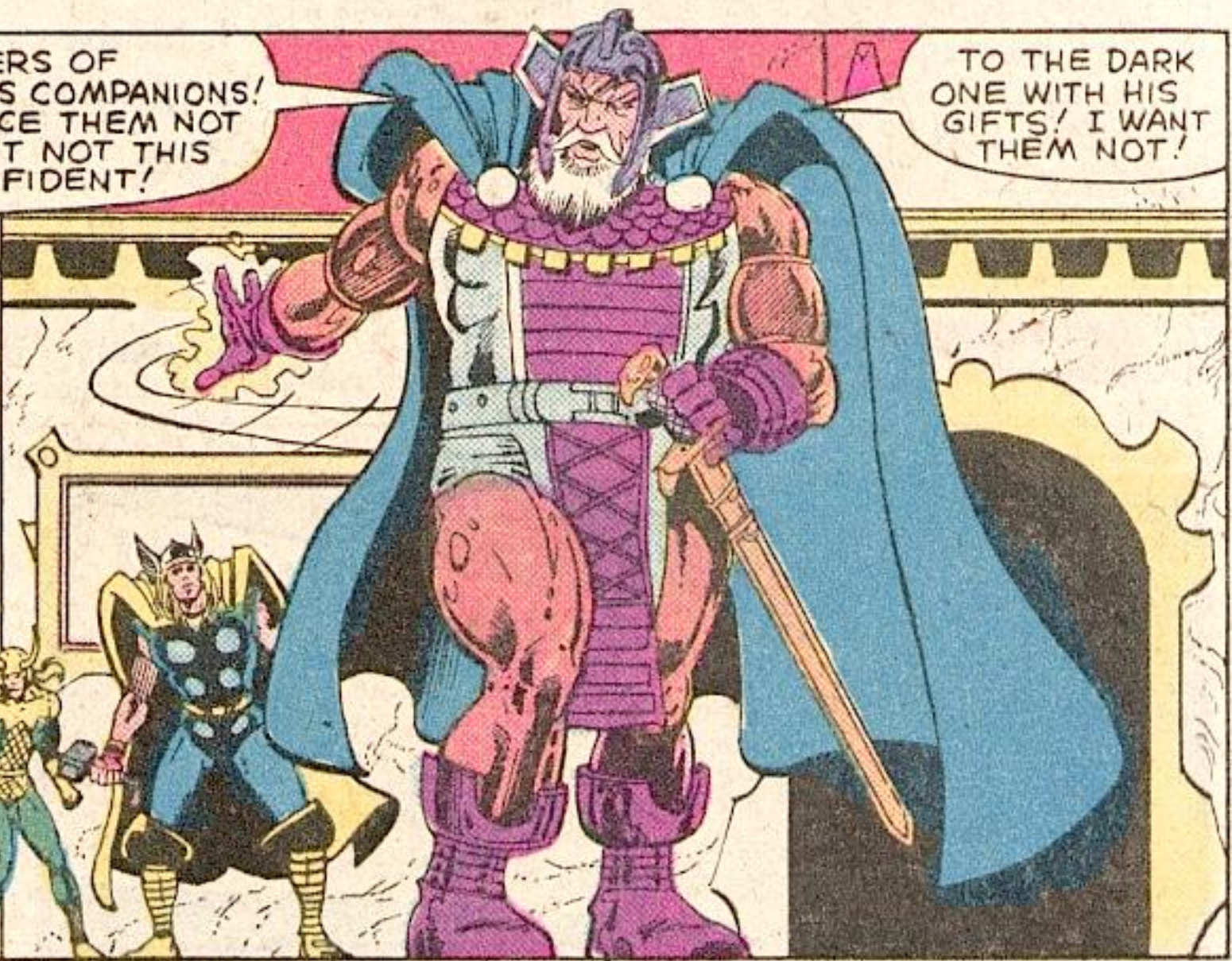
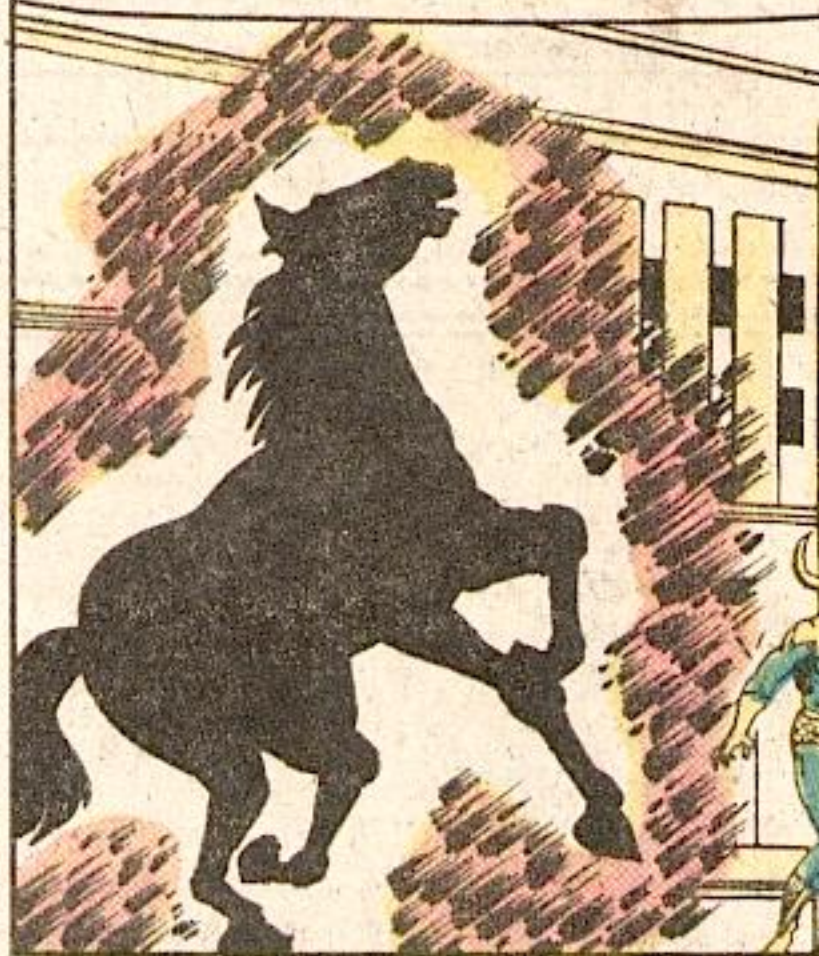


TODAY I HAVE FOUGHT WITH LIFE AND DEATH, TO EMERGE IN GLORIOUS VICTORY! HERE IS A PRIZE FOR THEE, FATHER!

THOU CONTESTED NOT AGAINST DEATH, MY SON--

THEY ARE THE GREAT DESTROYERS OF WARRIORS, AND EVERY WARRIOR'S COMPANIONS! REMEMBER THAT THOU SHALT FACE THEM NOT ONCE, BUT MANY TIMES-- AND LET NOT THIS "VICTORY" MAKE THEE OVERCONFIDENT!

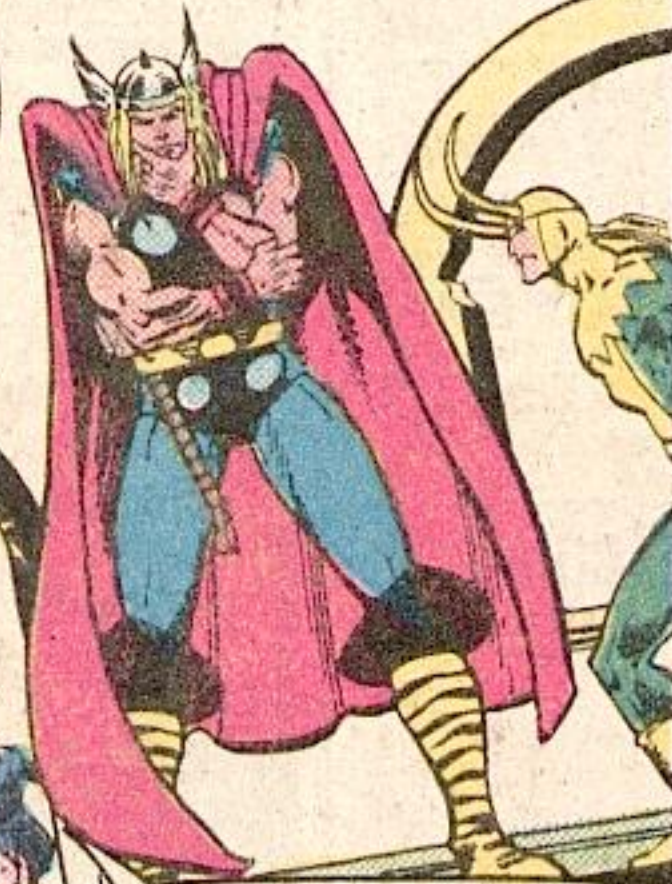
TO THE DARK ONE WITH HIS GIFTS! I WANT THEM NOT!



MOMENTS LATER...

THOR! WHEN WE HEARD THOU DIDST RETURN, WE CAME STRAIGHTAWAY! WE HAD GIVEN THEE UP FOR LOST!

LIES! NOBLE VOLSTAGG WAS EVER FAITHFUL!



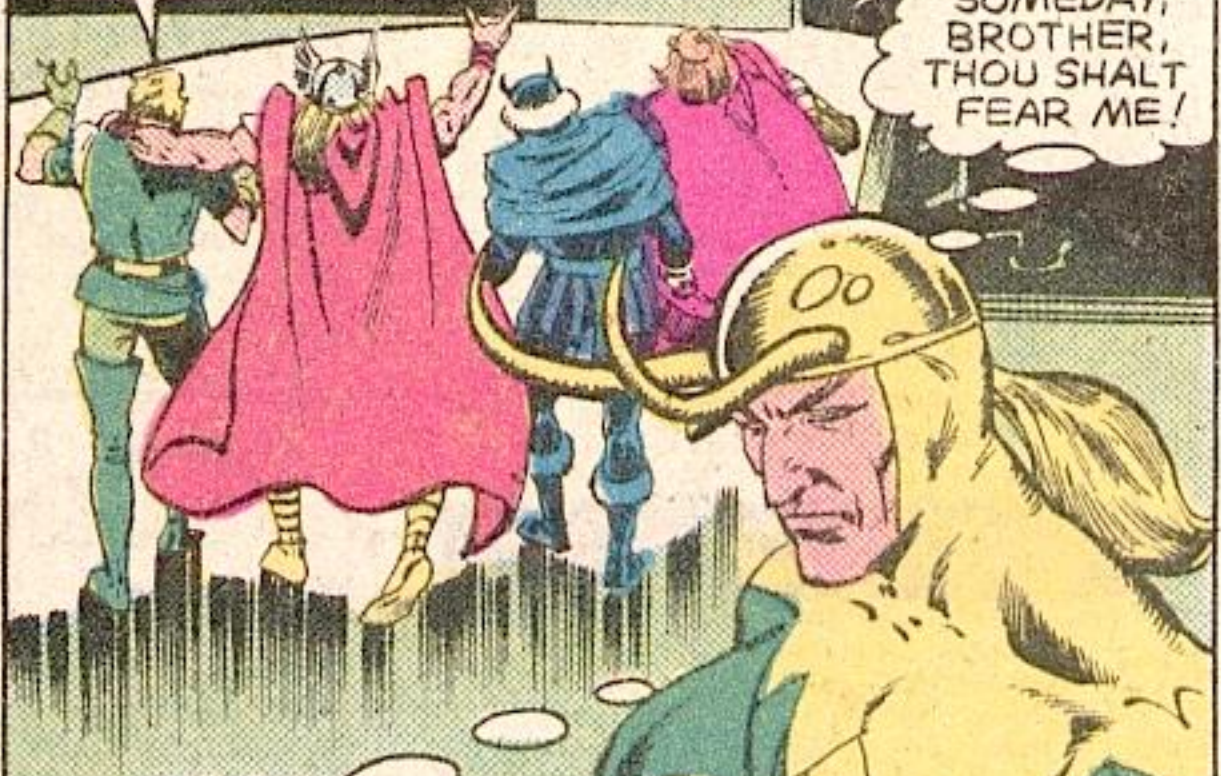
THOU WERT EVER FEEDING, ROTUND ONE!

DOST THOU BEAR TALES OF FEARFUL ADVENTURES, THOR?

TALES AND ADVENTURES, AYE --BUT WHO WOULD BELIEVE THAT GREAT THOR COULD KNOW FEAR?

HA - HA! WE WOULD NOT, DEAR FRIEND!

SOMEDAY, BROTHER, THOU SHALT FEAR ME!



SOMEDAY...

FIN.