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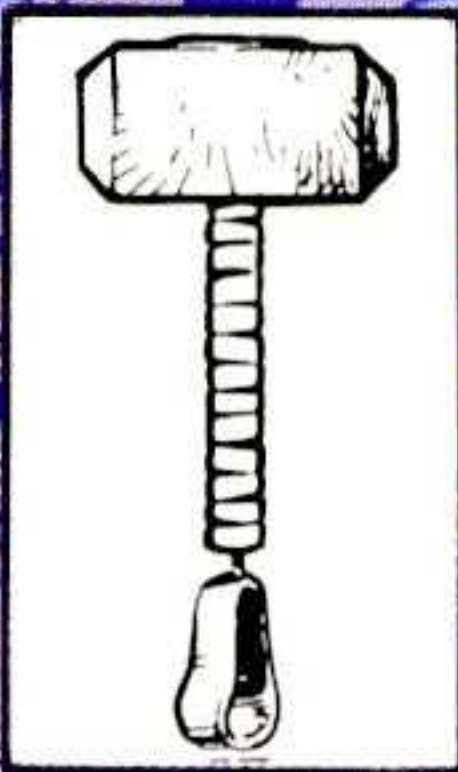


the mighty

THOR

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U.K. 30p
CAN. 75c

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STAN LEE PRESENTS *the* MIGHTY THOR[®]

A FIERY BURST AND A FLASH OF LIGHT, A ROLLING PEEL, AND A MIGHTY BLAST OF THUNDER!

AS INTO THE REALM OF ASGARD STEPS...
BETA RAY BILL!

...SUMMONED BY THE ALL-FATHER, ODIN, HIMSELF!

THE COSMIC AVENGER RIDES AGAIN!

RAGNAROK & ROLL!

WITHIN THE CRACKLING FIELD OF ENERGY, A SECOND FIGURE DOETH EMERGE BESIDE BILL!

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SO BE IT!
LET THE
RENT IN
SPACE BE
HEALED!

'TIS THE LADY
SIE FOR WHERE
GOETH BILL, CAN
SHE BE FAR
BEHIND?



I HAVE
SUMMONED THOSE
WHO CAN HELP US
MOST IN THIS, OUR
HOUR OF NEED!

BILL, MY POW-
ERFUL FRIEND.
GLAD AM I
TO SEE YOU.

AND I YOU, THUNDER
GOD. THOUGH I FEAR
THAT IF LORD ODIN
HAS CALLED US BACK
FROM SPACE, THE
DANGER MUST BE VERY
GREAT INDEED.

WELCOME, BILL. THOUGH
THE OCCASION IS A
GRAVE ONE, BALDER IS
GLAD TO MEET AT LAST
THE WARRIOR WHO
FOUGHT THE MIGHTY
THOR IN SKARTHEIM.*

DIDST THOU
REALLY LIFT
THOR'S
HAMMER?

AND YOU, MY
LADY? HOW
FARE YOU?



TRUER
WORDS
WERE
NEVER
SPOKEN.

AND
THESE
ARE THE
WARRIORS
THREE.

VOLSTAGG!

WELL,
MY
LORD.

*ISSUE 338.



INDEED THE WANDERING
WARRIOR LIFE DOES SUIT
YOU, MY LADY. NEVER HAVE
I SEEN YOU LOOK SO AT
PEACE AS NOW.

AND
BILL'S
PEOPLE?

MY CHILDREN, THOUGH WE
MIGHT HAPPILY SPEND DAYS
REGALING EACH OTHER WITH
TALES OF THE PAST, 'TIS
THE FUTURE THAT MOST
CONCERNS US NOW.

PREPARE
YOURSELVES
AND MEET ME
ON THE
BATTLE PLAIN
OF VIGRID
WITHIN THE
HOUR.

I GO TO
GATHER THE
WARRIORS OF
VALHALLA.

SAFELY GUARDED
BY SKUTTLEBUTT
AND PROTECTED BY
LORD ODIN'S SPELL
UNTIL WE RETURN.

OH, THOR,
THE WONDERS
I HAVE SEEN!



VIGRID--THE VAST FIELD WHEREIN ARE ARRANGED THE ARMIES OF ASGARD AND HER MIGHTY ALLIES BY ORDER OF IMPERIAL ODIN...

... BEFORE AN EMPTY STAGE OF TIMBER AND SILVER.

NOT EVEN A BREATH OF WIND STIRS THE GRASSES OF THE PLAIN. ALL NOW WAIT UPON THE ARRIVAL OF MY FATHER AND HIS WARRIORS.

AND SUDDENLY, SWELLING FROM THE RANKS OF THE ASSEMBLED HOST...

BUT HOLD. IS THIS THE LIGHT OF DAWN I SEE OR...?

...A CHEER RISES ABOVE THE BATTLE PLAIN TO FILL THE VERY HEAVENS...

WARRIORS OF THE GOLDEN REALM. THY LIEGE IS COME!

NOW DO I SUMMON THE FINAL WARRIORS OF OUR BAND.

...AS A GOLDEN LIGHT FILLS THE GREAT STAGE SOLIDIFYING BEFORE THE EYES OF THE SOLDIERY UNTIL...



...THE GODS AND GODDESSES WHO WILL STAND WITH ASGARD IN THIS LAST DAWN AGAINST ALL THE FORCES OF FIRE AND DARKNESS BEFORE US!

LET THOSE WHO SIDE WITH THE LIGHT APPEAR.

WE HAVE COME, LORD ODIN.



THOUGH IN THE PAST WE HAVE CLUNG TO THE SHADOWS, THE COMING DARKNESS THREATENS TO DESTROY US ALL.

WE STAND WITH ASGARD.

I AM PLEASED.

BUT NOT ALL HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL, I SEE. UP ON THEIR OWN HEADS SHALL THE FUTURE FALL MOST HEAVILY.



WARRIORS OF THE GOLDEN REALM! HEED MY WORDS!

FOR I WOULD TELL YOU THE STORY OF OUR FOE.



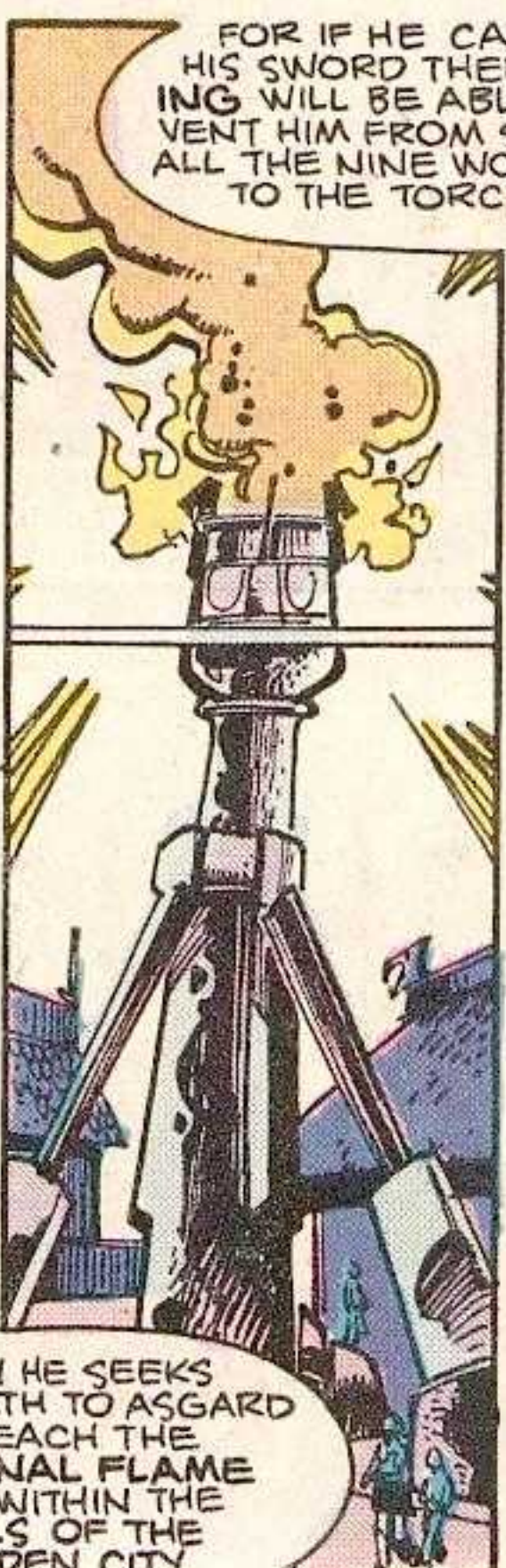
HE IS SURTUR FROM THE LAND OF MUSPELHEIM, THE OLDEST OF ALL WHO LIVE!



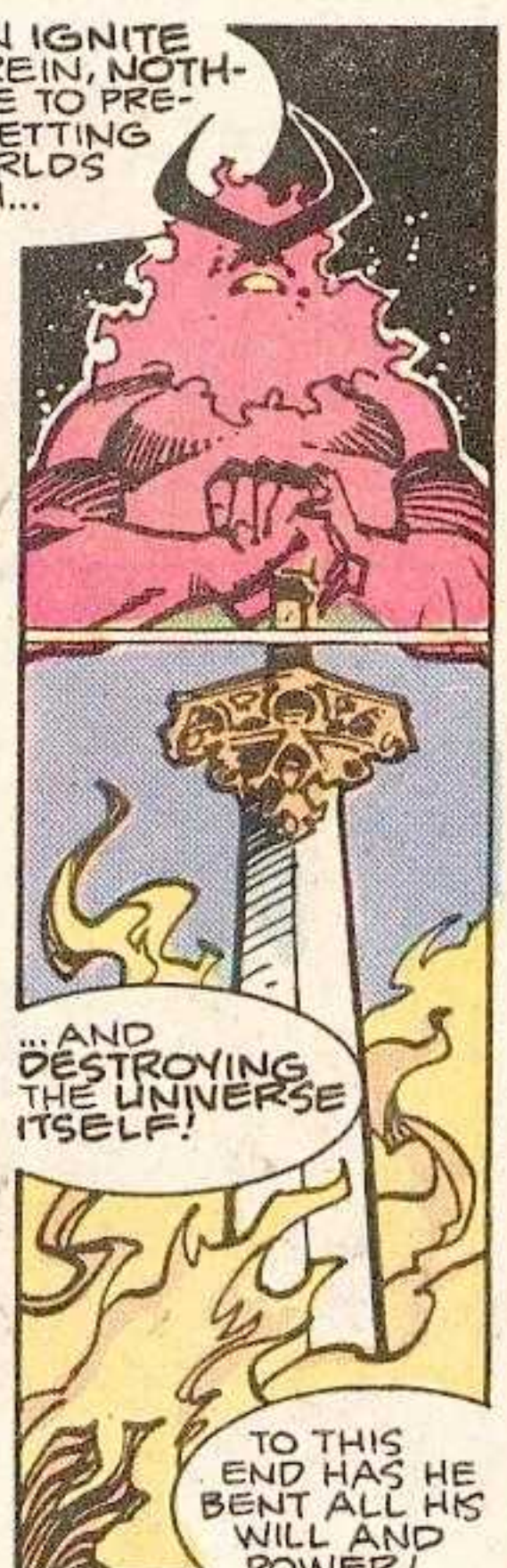
AND THE ENEMY OF ALL WHO CHERISH LIVING!

HE HAS FORGED A GREAT SWORD!

NOW HE SEEKS THE PATH TO ASGARD TO REACH THE ETERNAL FLAME KEPT WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE GOLDEN CITY.



FOR IF HE CAN IGNITE HIS SWORD THEREIN, NOTHING WILL BE ABLE TO PREVENT HIM FROM SETTING ALL THE NINE WORLDS TO THE TORCH...



...AND DESTROYING THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!

TO THIS END HAS HE BENT ALL HIS WILL AND POWER!

"HIS SERVANT, MALEKITH, RELEASED THE SPELL OF ANCIENT WINTERS, BRINGING CHAOS TO MANKIND..."



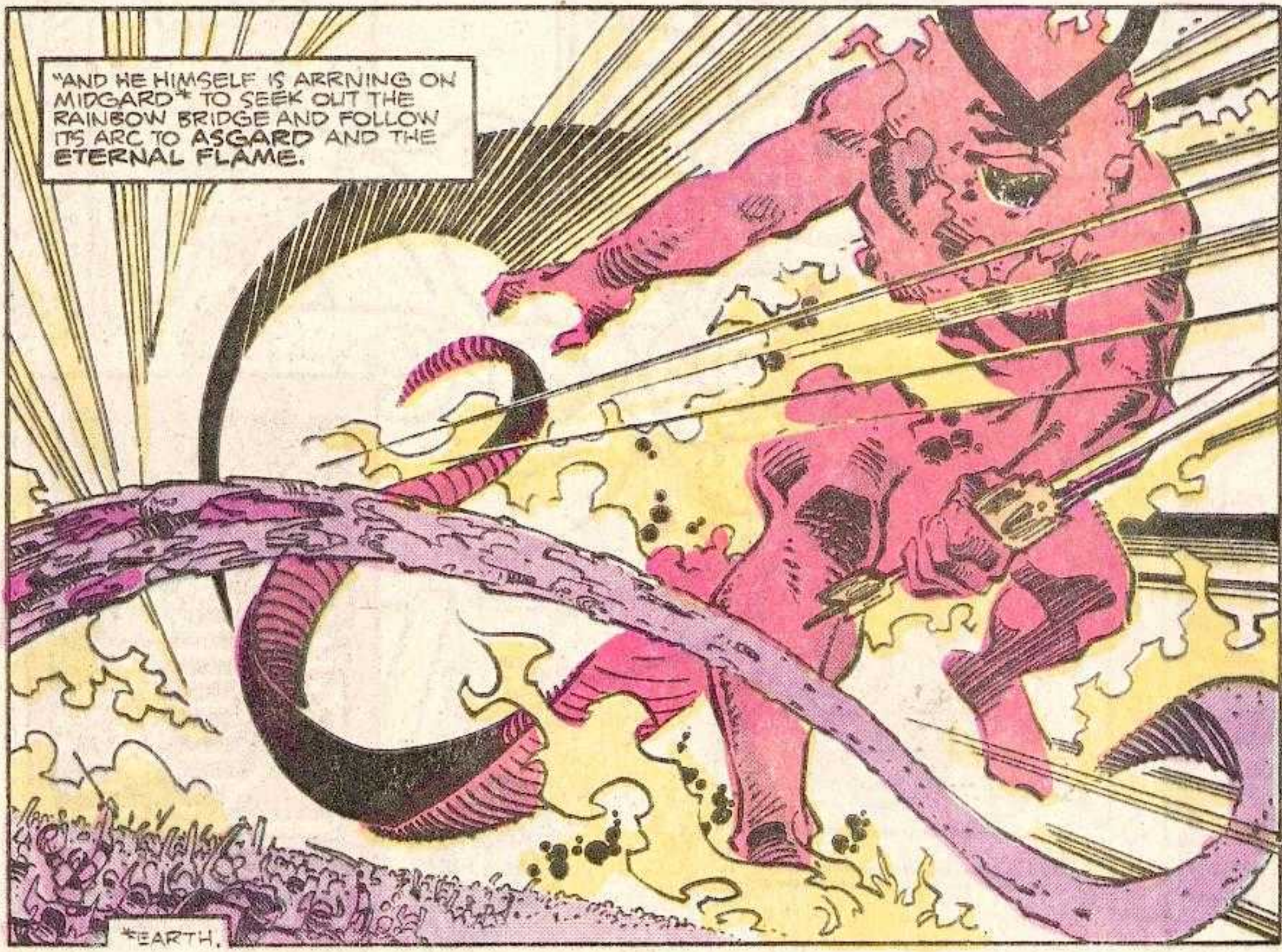
"...FREEZING THE GATEWAY BETWEEN HIS REALM AND THEIRS..."

"...PERMITTING HIM TO SHATTER THE GREAT PORTAL AND RELEASE HIS NUMBERLESS HORDES ACROSS THE MORTAL LANDS."

*THOR 348/349.

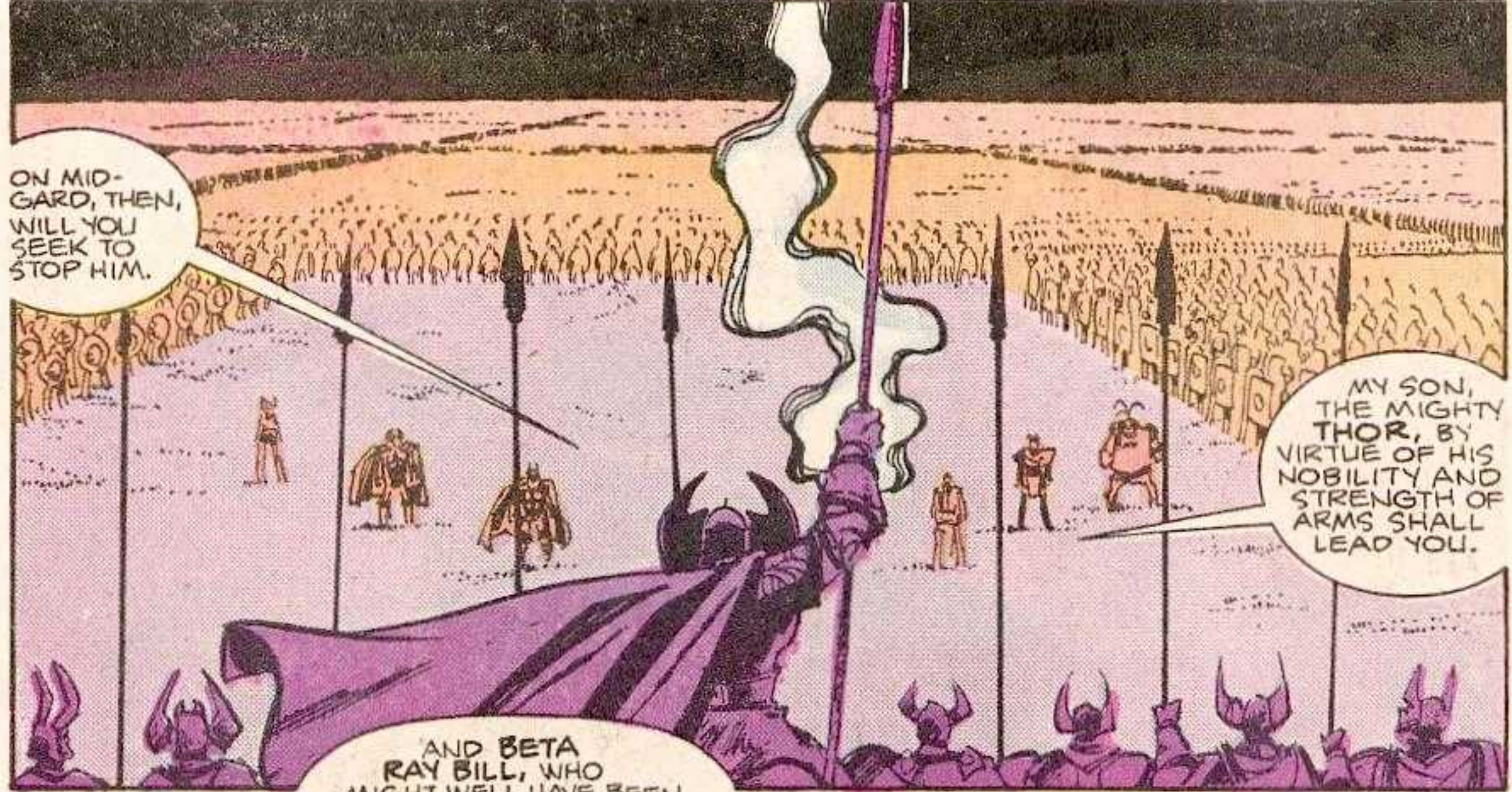


"EVEN NOW IN THE DESERT KNOWN AS THE SAHARA, HIS FORCES MUSTER AND PREPARE TO ATTACK..."



"AND HE HIMSELF IS ARRIVING ON MIDGARD* TO SEEK OUT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE AND FOLLOW ITS ARC TO ASGARD AND THE ETERNAL FLAME."

*EARTH.




ON MID-GARD, THEN, WILL YOU SEEK TO STOP HIM.

MY SON, THE MIGHTY THOR, BY VIRTUE OF HIS NOBILITY AND STRENGTH OF ARMS SHALL LEAD YOU.

AND BETA RAY BILL, WHO MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN MY SECOND SON, SHALL BE HIS BROTHER IN COMMAND. OBEY THEM AS YOU WOULD ME.



MY LORD? AND WHAT OF YOU?



ASGARD SHALL BE ALL BUT EMPTIED OF HER GUARDIANS. ONLY HEIMDALL AND MYSELF SHALL REMAIN BEHIND.




MY HEART REJOICES THAT MY FATHER STAYS BEHIND.


FOR THOUGH HE WIELDS POWER THAT HAS NO EQUAL, HE IS NO LONGER YOUNG...

WE SHALL BE THE FINAL DEFENSE OF THE ETERNAL FLAME SHOULD THE BATTLE GO ILL ON MIDGARD.

...AND WE SHALL ALL FIGHT WITH GREATER HEART KNOWING THAT HE IS SAFE WHATEVER BEFALLS US IN BATTLE.



I THINK THAT LORD ODIN'S PLAN IS A GOOD ONE, MILADY. BUT I WONDER IF HE SHOULD REMAIN BEHIND SO UNPROTECTED.



DON'T YOU THINK THAT IT WOULD BE WISE IF SOMEONE AS BATTLE PROVEN AS YOURSELF REMAINED BEHIND WITH HIM, AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE?



AH, FRIEND BILL. NOW YOU SPEAK WITH YOUR HEART AND NOT YOUR HEAD.

THINK YOU THAT THE LADY SIF, A WARRIOR WOMAN WITHOUT PEER IN ALL THE REALM WOULD BE CONTENT TO STAND IDLY BY AND LEAVE THE FIGHTING TO SUCH FOOLS AS WE?

I MERELY THOUGHT...

THE BONDS THAT HOLD FENRIS WOLF A CAPTIVE WOULD NOT SUFFICE TO KEEP HER FROM THE COMING BATTLE.



THOR HAS KNOWN ME SINCE I WORE PIGTAILS, WHEN HE SOUGHT TO KEEP ME FROM FOLLOWING HIM INTO BATTLE AGAINST THE FROST GIANTS.



HE FAILED.

YET I KNOW WELL THE HEART YOU SPEAK WITH, BILL, AND I CHERISH YOU FOR IT.

BUT IN TRUTH, WERE I TO REMAIN BEHIND, LORD ODIN WOULD SPEND THE TIME TELLING ME ENDLESS STORIES OF THE WORLD AS IT WAS WHEN HE WAS YOUNG TILL I COULD STAND NO MORE.

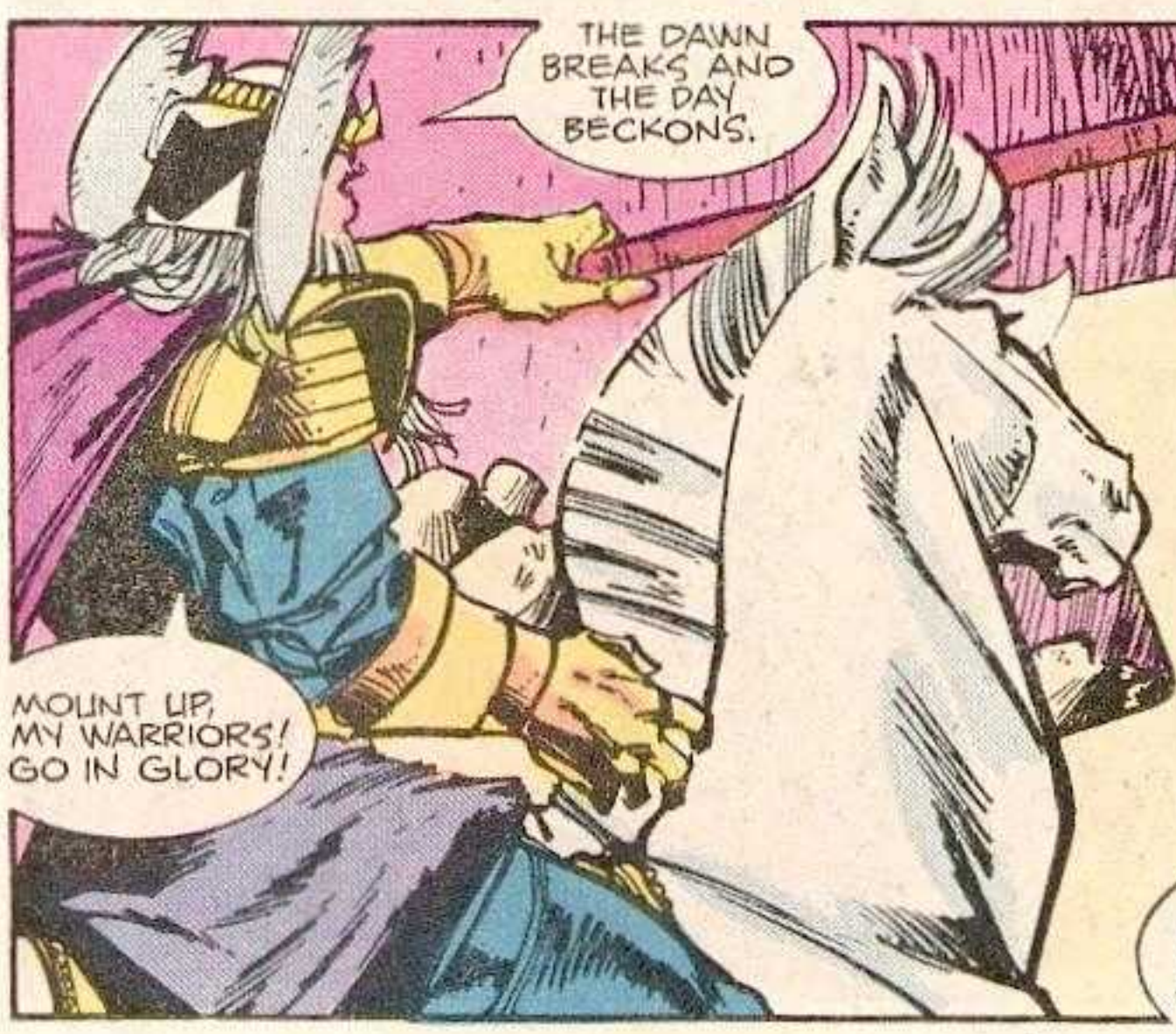


I WOULD RATHER GO TO WAR.



IF MY COMMANDERS HAVE FINISHED THEIR DELIBERATIONS AS TO THE ORDER OF BATTLE...

WE ARE READY, MY LORD.



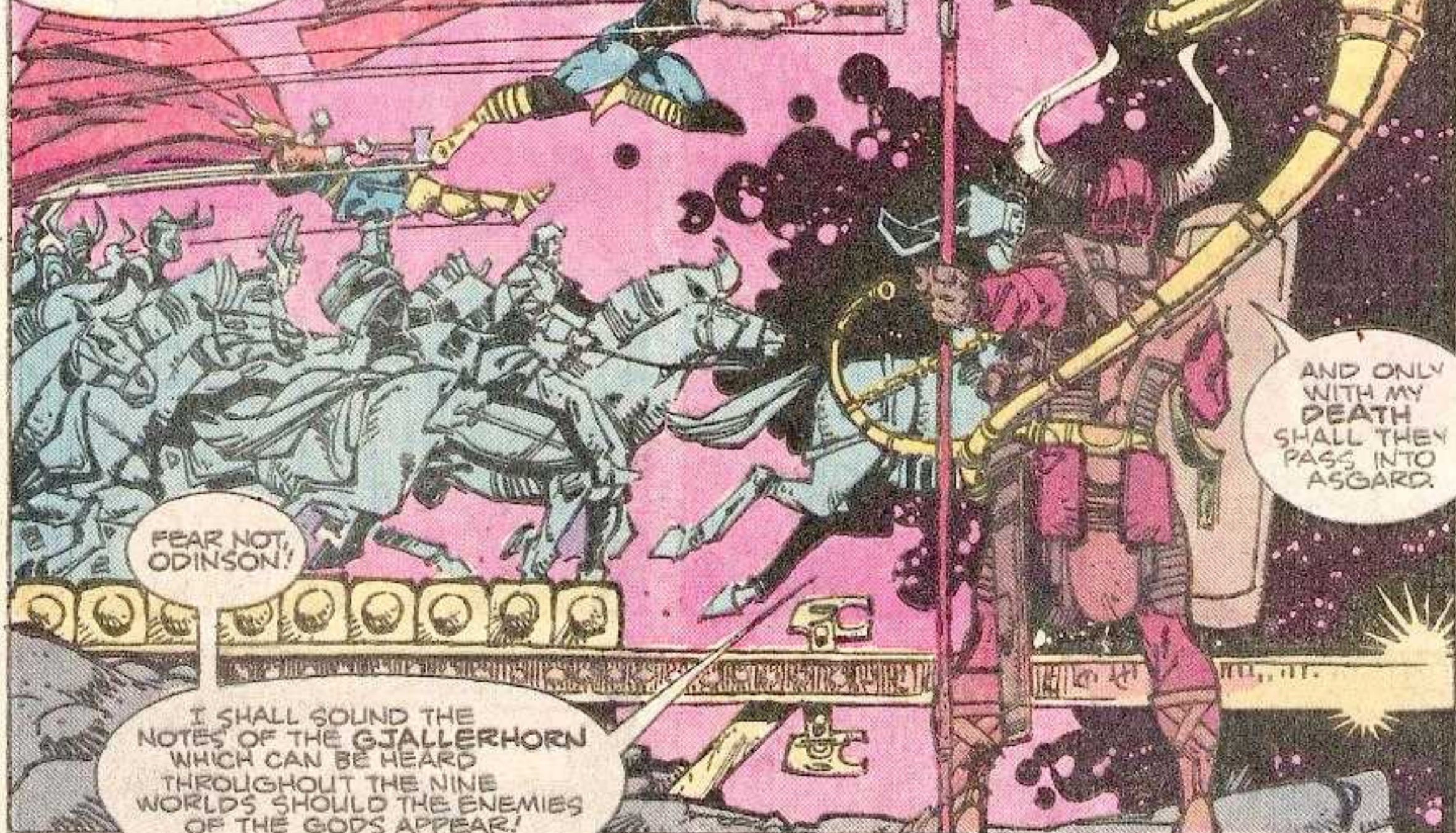
THE DAWN BREAKS AND THE DAY BECKONS.

MOUNT UP, MY WARRIORS! GO IN GLORY!



FOR ASGARD AND ODIN! FORWARD TO VICTORY!

FAREWELL, BRAVE HEIMDALL! GUARD WELL THE GATES OF THE GOLDEN REALM TILL WE RETURN!



AND ONLY WITH MY DEATH SHALL THEY PASS INTO ASGARD.

FEAR NOT, ODINSON!

I SHALL SOUND THE NOTES OF THE GJALLERHORN WHICH CAN BE HEARD THROUGHOUT THE NINE WORLDS SHOULD THE ENEMIES OF THE GODS APPEAR!

BILL, ALREADY OUR FOES PREPARE TO ATTACK THE POPULACE OF EARTH.



VERY WELL, THOR.

THOUGH THE ENEMY'S NUMBERS ARE COUNTLESS, NO HOST OF FOES SHALL PREVENT US!

WE'LL MEET YOU THERE!

THEREFORE I WILL SPEED AHEAD TO ALERT MY FELLOW WARRIORS, THE MIGHTY AVENGERS, TO THE DANGERS THAT THREATEN.

FOLLOW WITH ALL HASTE AND I SHALL GREET THEE IN NEW YORK CITY!

SIF KNOWS THE WAY!

WHILE BEHIND THE HOST AT THE EDGE OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE...

THOR, I COULD ALMOST HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS.

GLAD YOU WERE THAT I REMAINED BEHIND, THE AGING WARRIOR SAFE FROM THE LURE OF BATTLE.

IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE FARTHER, YOU WOULD NOT HAVE LEFT ME WITH A PEACEFUL HEART.

STILL, SUCH THOUGHTS ONLY DO YOU HONOR.

FOR OF ALL THE GODS TO ANSWER THE CALL, YOUR STEP-BROTHER REMAINED ABSENT...

... UNTOUCHED BY THE HORROR THAT THREATENS TO EN-GULF US ALL!

LOKI, MY SON, WOULD THAT YOU HAD STOOD BESIDE US IN THIS FINAL HOUR.

MY OTHER SON, AND GREATEST FAILURE.

HUSBAND. I HAVE GATHERED THE CHILDREN OF ASGARD TOGETHER AS YOU ASKED.

WE ARE READY.

FRIGGA, MY BE-LOVED, INTO YOUR CARE HAVE I GIVEN THE GREATEST TREASURE OF THE GOLDEN REALM.

YOU MUST TAKE THEM FAR AWAY, TO GUARD THEM FROM THE HARMS TO COME.

FOR EVEN IF WE WIN, I FEAR THAT THE BRIGHT WORLD OF ASGARD MAY BE CHANGED FOREVER.

AND THE CHILDREN MUST BE PROTECT-ED?

WE AREN'T GOING.

?

BUT, GUNNHILD, AM I NOT THE ALL-FATHER WHO MUST BE OBEYED?

YOU'RE JUST SENDING US AWAY FROM THE FIGHT.

MAYBE THE GROWN-UPS DON'T KNOW THAT THIS IS WHERE IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL US.

WE WANT TO STAY AND HELP.

SO WE'RE NOT LEAVING AND YOU CAN'T MAKE US.

I SEE. WILL YOU EXCUSE US A MOMENT, FRIGGA. YOUNG GUNNHILD AND I MUST TALK.



IT WON'T WORK, WHATEVER IT IS. WE KIDS TALKED IT OVER AND WE STILL AREN'T GOING.



HUH?

FRIGGA MUST NOT OVERHEAR US. FOR IF SHE KNEW, SHE HERSELF WOULD NOT LEAVE WILLINGLY.



LISTEN TO ME, GUNNHILD.

YOU ARE RIGHT, OF COURSE. THE GREATEST DANGER IS HERE IN ASGARD.

IF FRIGGA WERE TO REMAIN BEHIND, I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FIGHT MY BEST BECAUSE I WOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT HER.

SO I MUST SEND HER OUT OF HARM'S WAY TO SAFETY, BUT I DARE NOT LET HER LEAVE ASGARD ALONE.

SHE THINKS SHE IS GUARDING THE CHILDREN. IN REALITY, YOU SHALL BE HER PROTECTORS.

THE WILDS BEYOND THE GOLDEN REALM ARE FILLED WITH ENEMIES OF ASGARD WHO WOULD LOVE TO DESTROY ODIN'S BELOVED.



AND I WILL KNOW THAT SHE IS SAFE.

WELL... ARE YOU SURE SHE NEEDS HELP?



OKAY, THEN, WE'LL DO IT.



ODIN?

MY DEAREST...

WHEN BETTER NOW TO PART THAN IN THE DAWN?

HURRY UP, FRIGGA!

HUSH, BELOVED. HAVE WE NOT HAD AN ETERNITY TOGETHER?

THE MATTER IS SETTLED. THE CHILDREN WILL TAKE YOU OUT OF ASGARD AND GUARD YOU AGAINST ALL DANGERS.

THE CHILDREN ARE WAITING.



METHINKS YOU SPOKE MORE TRUTH WITH YOUNG GUNNHILD THAN FRIGGA MIGHT HAVE GUESSED, LORD ODIN.

YET I AM STILL PUZZLED AS TO WHY YOU ASKED ME TO REMAIN BEHIND THE DEPARTING HOSTS WITH YOU.

BECAUSE, BRAVE BALDER, I HAVE ANOTHER MISSION FOR YOU.



I WOULD ASK YOU TO JOURNEY TO SEEK KARNILLA AND PERSUADE HER TO JOIN WITH US IN THIS FIGHT AGAINST THE SONS OF MUSPELL.

THE GOD KARNILLA KNEW IS NOT THE GOD TO WHOM THE NORNS HAVE SHOWN THE TAPESTRY OF LIFE.

AND THE FINAL RESULTS OF YOUR FIRST MISSIONS ARE NOT YET IN.

MY LORD! SURELY THE RESULTS OF MY LAST MISSION FOR YOU WOULD PERSUADE ANYONE NOT TO SEND ME ON SUCH ERRANDS AGAIN*!

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE YOURSELF, BALDER.

*THOR 344.

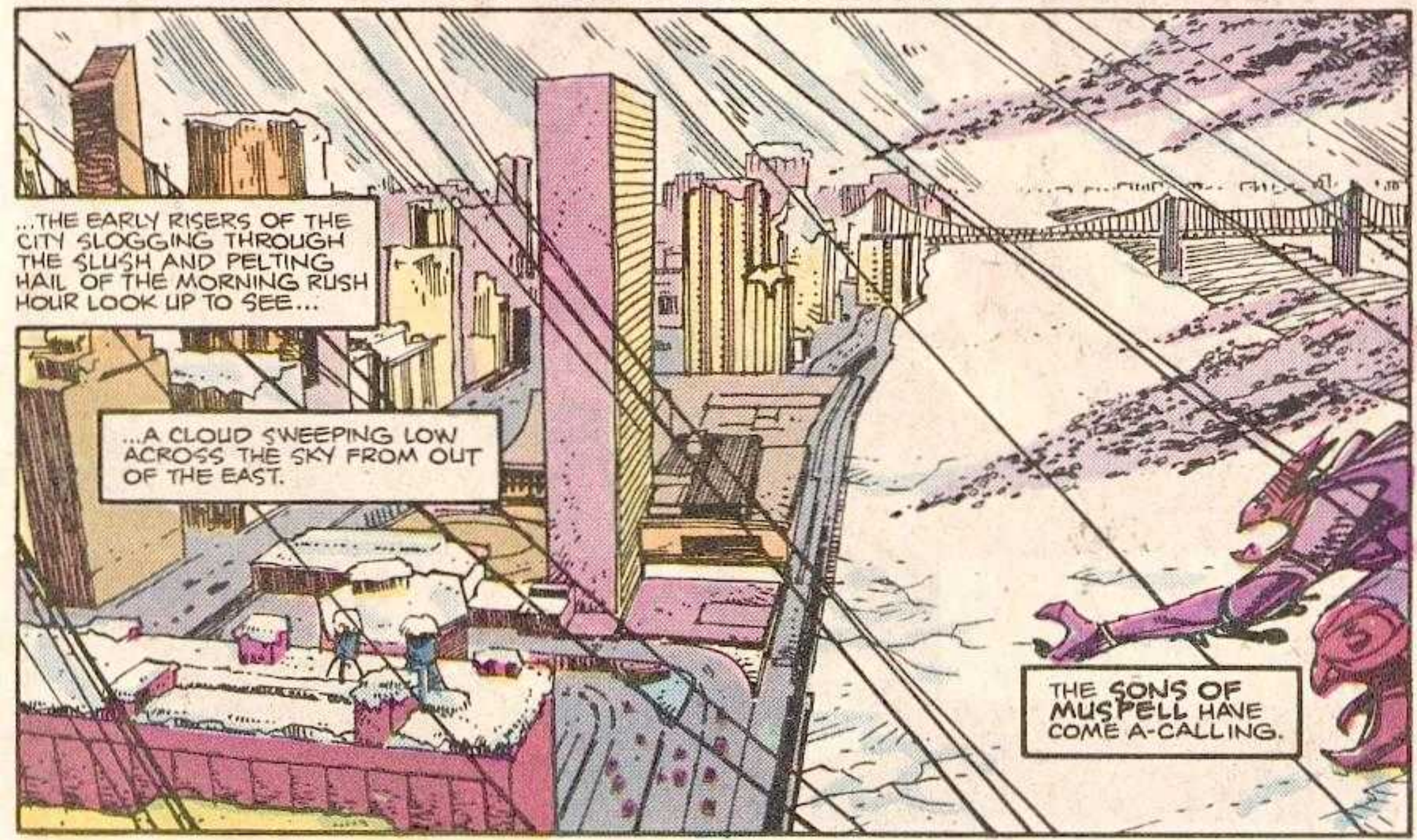


BESIDES, WAS THERE NOT A CERTAIN SATISFACTION IN REMOVING LOKI'S HEAD...

...HOWEVER IMPERMANENT THE OUTCOME?

I LEAVE AT ONCE, MY LORD.

MEANWHILE, IN NEW YORK CITY, WHERE THE DAWN'S SUMMER LIGHT IS PRACTICALLY OBLITERATED BY THE WINTER STORM THAT SWEEPS ACROSS THE GLOBE FROM POLE TO POLE...



...THE EARLY RISERS OF THE CITY SLOGGING THROUGH THE SLUSH AND PELTING HAIL OF THE MORNING RUSH HOUR LOOK UP TO SEE...

...A CLOUD SWEEPING LOW ACROSS THE SKY FROM OUT OF THE EAST.

THE SONS OF MUSPELL HAVE COME A-CALLING.



HEY, LOOK!
COMING IN
ABOVE THE
RIVER!

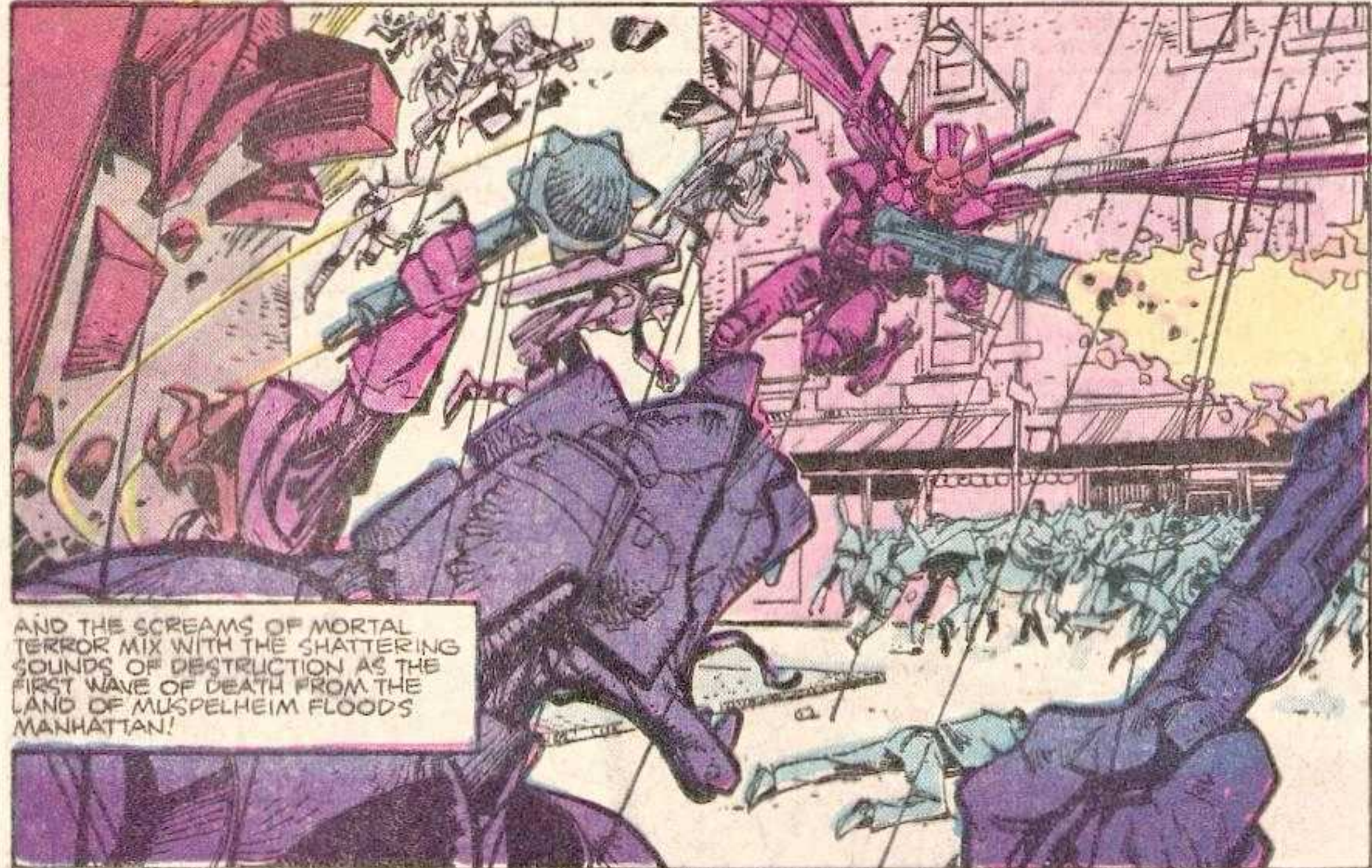
WHAT'S GOING
ON? HAVE THE
RUSSIANS FINALLY
MADE IT ACROSS
THE ATLANTIC?



THOSE
GUYS ARE
ARMED!

RUN
FOR THE
SUBWAYS!

BILLY!
BILLY!



AND THE SCREAMS OF MORTAL
TERROR MIX WITH THE SHATTERING
SOUNDS OF DESTRUCTION AS THE
FIRST WAVE OF DEATH FROM THE
LAND OF MUSPELHEIM FLOODS
MANHATTAN!

THOUGH A FEW TRY VALIANTLY TO
STEM THE TIDE, THE DEMON
HORDES OF SURTUR SWEEP ALL
OPPOSITION BEFORE THEM.



NOW, BROTHERS,
THE WORLD OF
MEN SHALL
TREMBLE BEFORE
THE DEVASTATING
POWER OF THE
SONS OF
MUSPELL!

WRECK AND
RUIN!
DESTRUCTION
TO THE
WORLD!



LET
NO
ONE
SURVIVE!

WHEN SUDDENLY...



WHOOOONN!
BRAKKA!

TO MY
HAND,
FAITHFUL
MJOLNIR!



THOUGH YOUR
MIGHT HAS DROPPED
A SCORE OF MUSPELL'S
SONS, THERE BE YET
MORE WHICH MUST
BE STOPPED!



BUT WE SHALL NOT FACE THEM ALONE!

AVENGERS ATTACK!



AND THE EARTH REELS AS STARFOX...

I DON'T BELIEVE THEY WERE EXPECTING US, THOR!



CAPTAIN MARVEL...

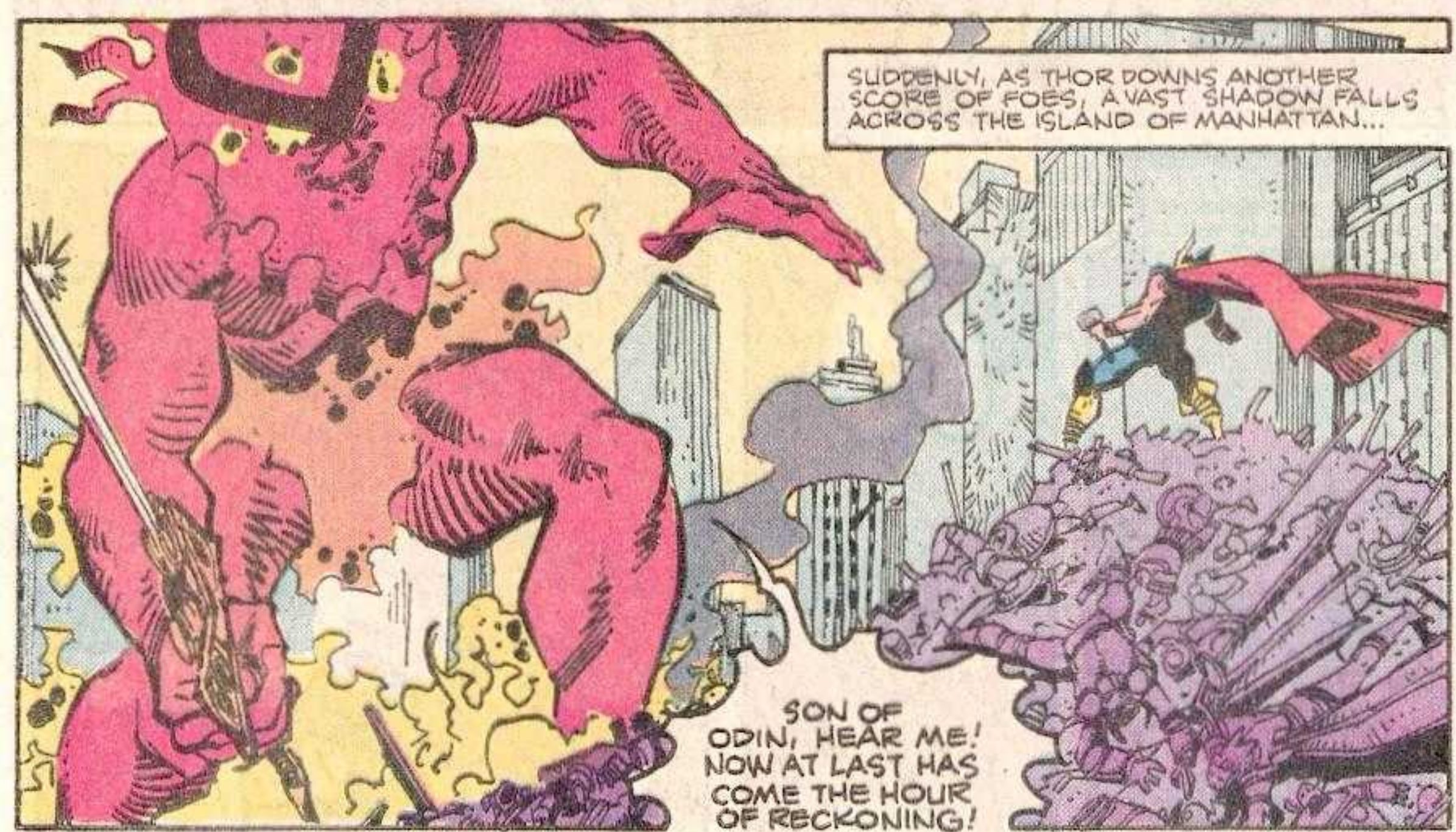
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THEY ARE, A MILLION KILOVOLTS OF ELECTRICITY SHOULD SLOW THEM DOWN!



...THE SCARLET WITCH AND THE WASP JOIN IN THE UNEQUAL STRUGGLE.

THESE CREATURES ARE UNBELIEVABLY POWERFUL!

HEY, YOU! KEEP YOUR ARMORED MITTS OFF OUR SCARLET WITCH!



SUDDENLY, AS THOR DOWNS ANOTHER SCORE OF FOES, A VAST SHADOW FALLS ACROSS THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN...

SON OF ODIN, HEAR ME! NOW AT LAST HAS COME THE HOUR OF RECKONING!

BUT EVEN AS THOR TURNS TO FACE THE GIANT FIGURE OF SURTUR, IN THE REALM OF KARNILLA, THE NORN QUEEN, WE FIND...



NO, BRAVE BALDER! I'LL NOT SEND ONE WARRIOR TO THE AID OF ASGARD!

FOR I OWE LORD ODIN NOTHING!

BUT, KARNILLA, THIS IS NO ORDINARY FOE WE FACE. SURTUR IS A BEING WHO WOULD DESTROY US ALL IF HE CAN!



AND YET, ARE YOU SO INDIFFERENT AS YOU PRETEND?



IT IS SAID THAT THE ANIMALS OF KARNILLA'S DOMAIN ARE SUBJECT TO HER EVERY WHIM.

I RECENTLY SAW THE NORNS THEMSELVES IN THEIR DWELLING PLACE AT THE VERY EDGE OF YOUR KINGDOM.

THEY SHOWED ME THINGS I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

AND I WAS LED TO THEM PARTLY THROUGH THE AGENCY OF A GREAT SAND DEVIL.

*THOR 347.



THE DEVIL, BALDER, IS A NOTORIOUSLY DIFFICULT BEAST TO CONTROL.

BUT I AM NOT INDIFFERENT.

THOUGH I OWE ODIN NOTHING, I BELIEVE HE CHOSE HIS MESSENGER WISELY.

FOR I DO DESIRE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ASGARD!



AND WHAT I DESIRE IS YOU.

IF YOU WILL SWEAR ETERNAL ALLEGIANCE TO THE NORN QUEEN HERE AND NOW, I SHALL SEND LORD ODIN ALL THE FORCES AT MY COMMAND.

REFUSE AND NOTHING SHALL SAVE ASGARD FROM BLEAKEST DEFEAT.

AT THAT MOMENT ON EARTH...



NOW, THOR, YOU SHALL SEE YOUR COMPANIONS DIE BEFORE I SLAY YOU MYSELF...

...AND KNOW THAT NOTHING YOU CAN DO WILL PREVENT THEIR DEATHS.



SLAY THEM, MY MINIONS!

WE'RE PINNED DOWN AND MY HANDS ARE CAUGHT!

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FREE THEM IN TIME TO WARD OFF THE BLOW!



KLA THASSH!

WHA--? I'M FREE BUT THAT'S NOT THOR'S HAMMER!

AND THUNDERING ACROSS THE FROZEN HUDSON RIVER INTO THE REALM OF MIDGARD...

FOR ODIN!

DEATH TO THE SONS OF FLAME!

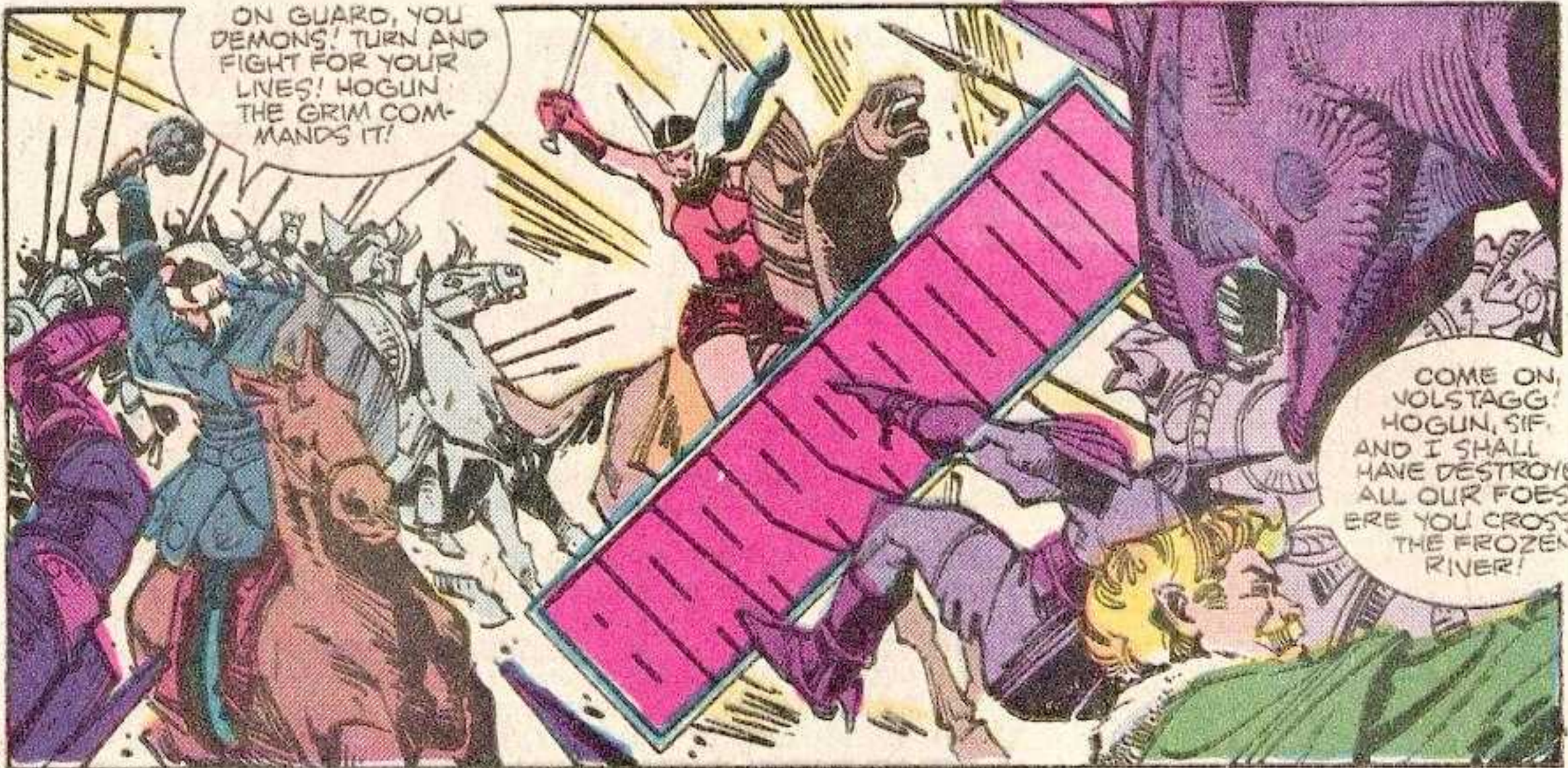
THE FORCES OF ASGARD!



WELL MET, THOR!

IT SEEMS WE HAVE COME JUST IN TIME!

ON GUARD, YOU DEMONS! TURN AND FIGHT FOR YOUR LIVES! HOGUN THE GRIM COMMANDS IT!



COME ON, VOLSTAGG! HOGUN, SIF, AND I SHALL HAVE DESTROYED ALL OUR FOES BEFORE YOU CROSS THE FROZEN RIVER!



FAGGH! NO HORSE IS EQUAL TO THE TASK OF CARRYING MY HEROIC GIRTH, FANDRAL!

THEN LEAP TO THE SKY, VOL-LUMINOUS ONE, FOR YET ANOTHER WAVE OF OUR FOES RACES TO THE ATTACK!

LET LESSER MEN SEEK TO RISE ABOVE THEIR FELLOWS ON THE BACKS OF SUCH POOR ANIMALS.



BUT AS THE FORCES OF ASGARD ENGAGE THE ENEMY ON ALL FRONTS...

NOW I MUST SEEK THE PATH TO ASGARD WHILE THE WARRIORS OF ODIN TRY TO STEM THE UNSTOPPABLE TIDE OF FIRE DEMONS!



VOLSTAGG SHALL LEAP INTO THE CRUSH OF BATTLE AND DESTROY HIS FOES WITH A SINGLE BOUND!



THESE THINGS SEEM TO EXIST IN ENDLESS NUMBERS, EXECUTIONER!

AYE, ENCHANTRESS. AND FOR EVERY ONE WE SLAY, A DOZEN MORE RISE TO TAKE ITS PLACE.

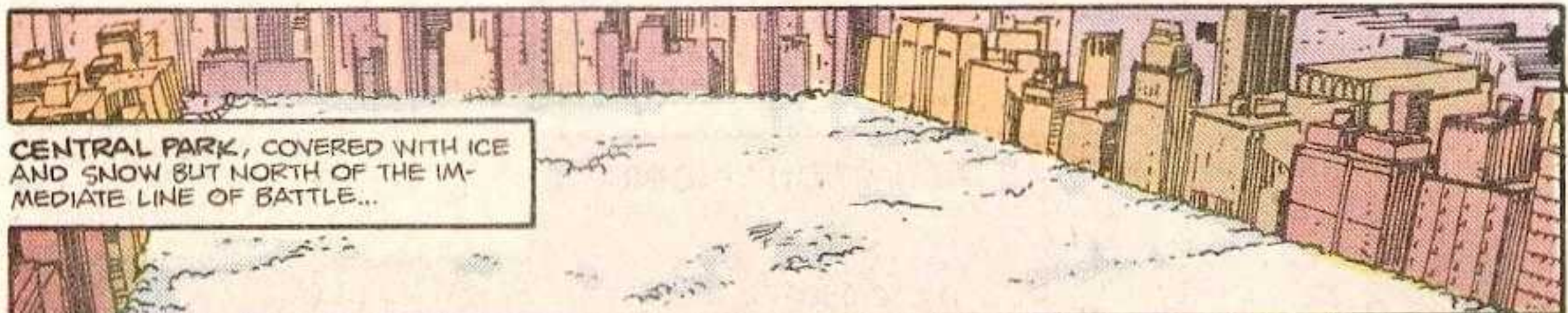


WE NEED ALL THE AID WE CAN GET!

I GO TO FETCH ANOTHER WHO SHOULD BE HERE WITH US!



FTASSP!



CENTRAL PARK, COVERED WITH ICE AND SNOW BUT NORTH OF THE IMMEDIATE LINE OF BATTLE...

...AND IN A PENTHOUSE OVERLOOKING THE FROZEN LAKE...



THAT FLASH OF LIGHT! AN ASGARDIAN HAS ENTERED THIS PLACE!

IT'S...



YES, DEAR SISTER! THE ENCHANTRESS! COME TO CALL YOU TO BATTLE!



THOUGH WE HAVE NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN US, LORELEI, THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE NINE WORLDS IS THREATENED BY THE FORCES OF FIRE AND EVERY HELP IS NEEDED!



I HAVE COME TO ASK YOU TO PUT ASIDE OUR FEUD AND JOIN WITH US.

DON'T BE SILLY, AMORA.

WHAT?!



DO YOU THINK THAT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT?

LONG HAVE YOU SOUGHT TO WIN THE HANDSOME THOR...

...AND NOW THAT I HAVE MADE HIM MINE FOREVER WITH THE ENCHANTED MEAD, YOU SEEK TO HAVE ME SLAIN AND TAKE FOR YOURSELF WHAT YOU COULD NEVER WIN.

GO, AND LEAVE ME TO MY VICTORY. THOR IS MINE.



HOW SIMPLE YOU ARE, LORELEI. TO BALANCE A MERE INFATUATION AGAINST THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL THAT IS.

BUT MARK MY WORDS. SHOULD WE WIN THE BATTLE, I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT ALL YOUR CONTRIVANCES ARE UNDONE!



AND COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY THAT I CAN SPARE NO ENERGY TO DEAL WITH YOU AS YOU DESERVE!

FTAASSP!



I WONDER IF THAT WAS WISE.

BUT NO, THE GOLDEN MEAD HAS MADE THOR MINE FOREVER. THE MORE HE TASTES, THE TIGHTER HE WILL BE BOUND TO ME.

AND NOTHING MY SISTER CAN DO WILL CHANGE THAT!

BUT EVEN AS THE EN-
CHANTRESS REAPPEARS
BESIDE THE EXECUTIONER...

THE FLAMES
MAY DO THE
INVADERS' WORK
FOR THEM!

UNLESS WE CAN FIND
SOME WAY TO STOP THEM,
WE WILL SOON BE
FIGHTING OVER A
BURNED-OUT CITY!

THEN
WE HAD
BEST ACT
PROMPTLY!

... A PALL OF
SMOKE RISES
ABOVE THE CITY
AS THE FIERY
SONS OF MUSPELL
TORCH EVERY-
THING IN THEIR
PATH.

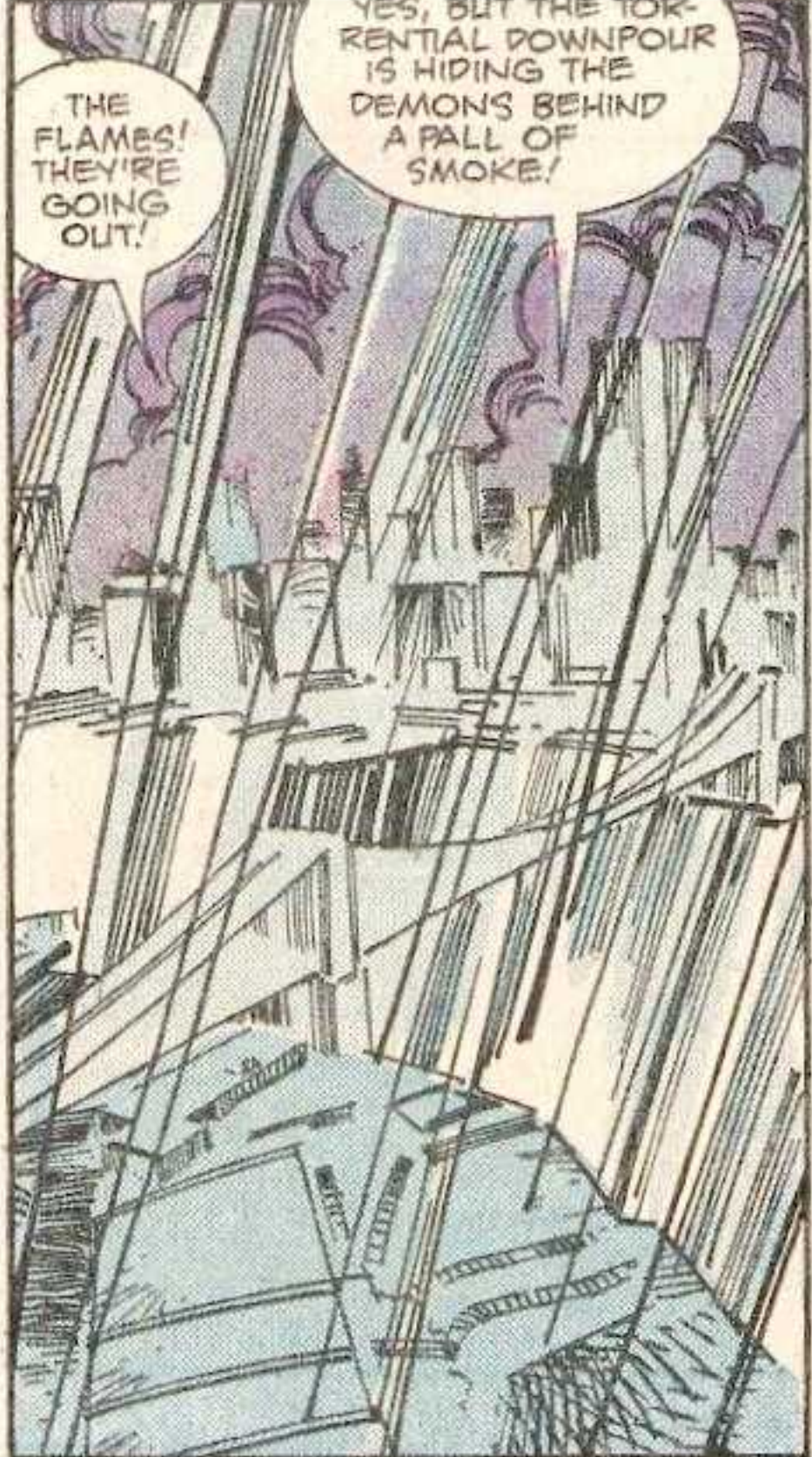
IF WE CAN BUT
CLEAR A SPACE
FOR A MOMENT...

IT IS BEYOND MY
POWER TO BREAK
THE ICY GRIP OF
WINTER THROUGH-
OUT THE WORLD...

NO SOONER
SAID THAN DONE,
THOR. AND
NOW?

... BUT I THINK
I CAN CREATE A
LOCAL RAINSTORM
TO DRENCH THE
CITY AND
EXTINGUISH
THE FIRE!

BARRROOOOM!



THE FLAMES! THEY'RE GOING OUT!

YES, BUT THE TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR IS HIDING THE DEMONS BEHIND A FALL OF SMOKE!



THE CITY ITSELF IS COMPLETELY OBSCURED FROM VIEW!

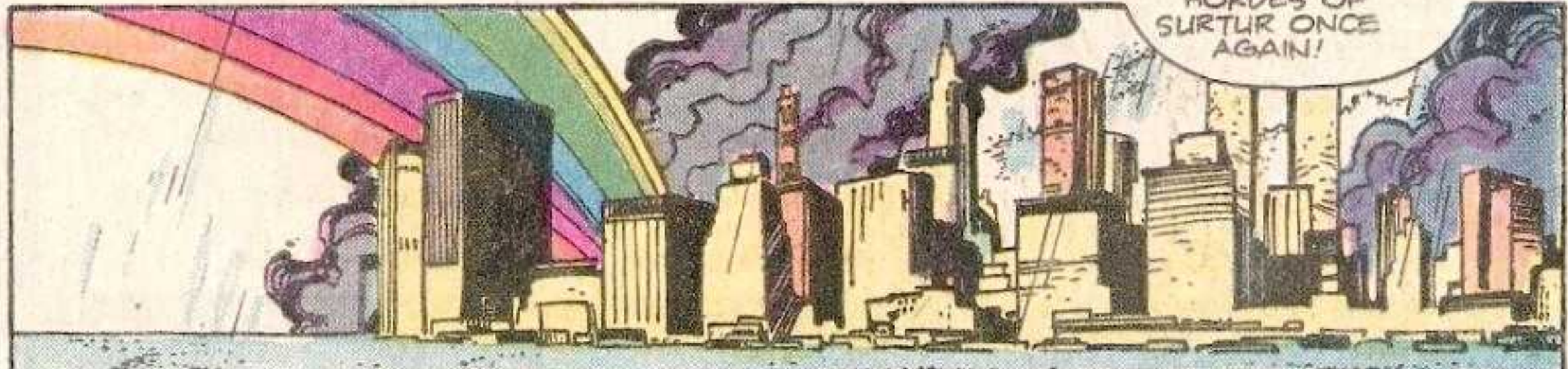
THEN BY MY COMMAND, LET THE RAIN CEASE, THE THUNDER'S VOICE BE STILLED!



THE STORM'S WORK IS DONE, FOR THE FLAMES HAVE DIED COMPLETELY!



AND EVEN AS WE WATCH, THE SMOKE LIFTS, REVEALING THE DEMON HORDES OF SURTUR ONCE AGAIN!

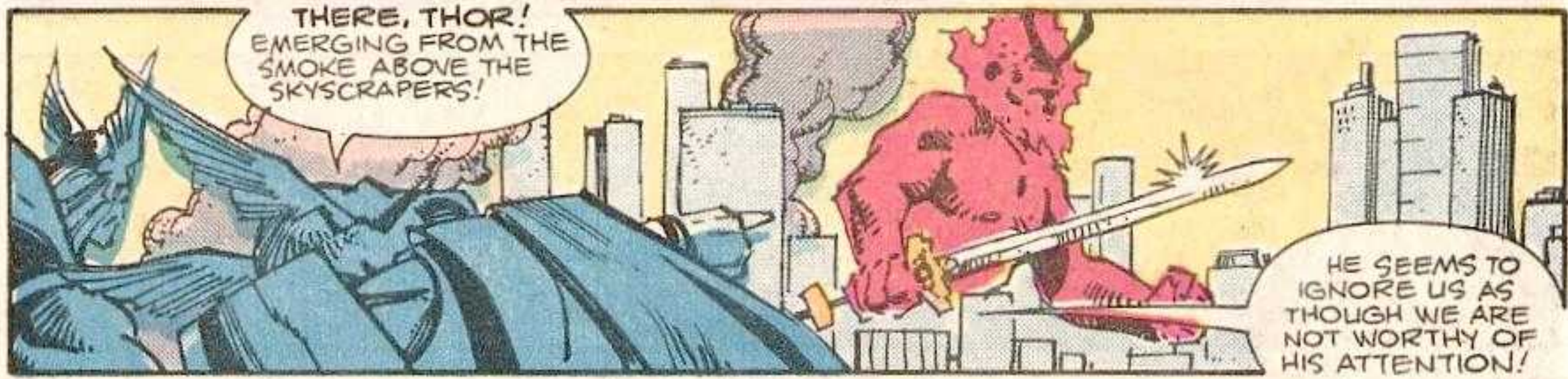




BUT WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE DEMONS' MASTER HIMSELF?

ONLY BY DEFEATING HIM CAN WE HOPE TO DEFEAT THE DEMONS AS WELL!

FOR IT IS HE WE MUST ATTACK, BILL!



THERE, THOR! EMERGING FROM THE SMOKE ABOVE THE SKYSCRAPERS!

HE SEEMS TO IGNORE US AS THOUGH WE ARE NOT WORTHY OF HIS ATTENTION!

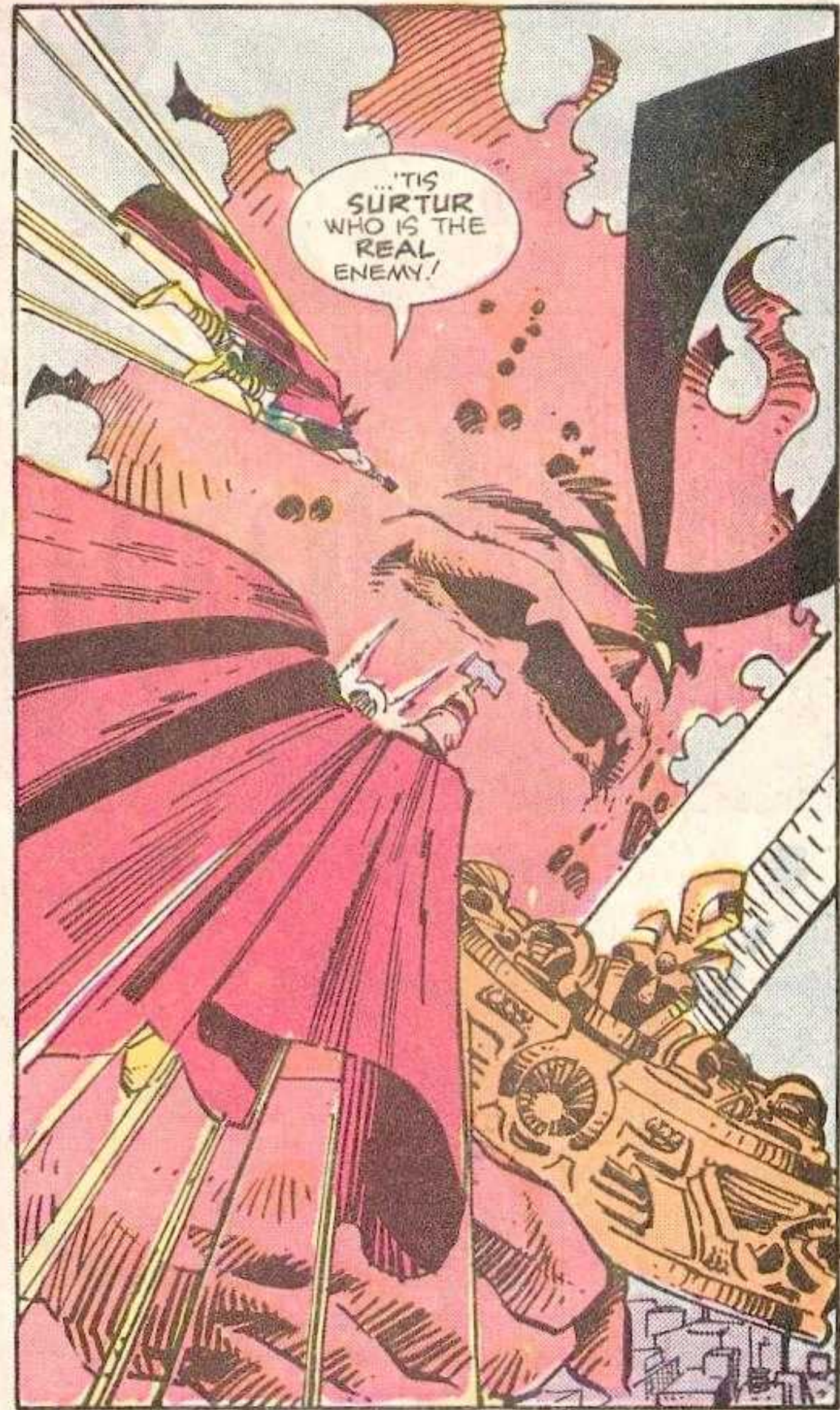


COME, BILL! FOR THOUGH THE FORCES OF ASGARD AND THE MORTAL HEROES BATTLE VALIANTLY AGAINST THE SONS OF MUSPELL...

...SURTUR IS BEYOND THE STRENGTH OF ANY SAVE OURSELVES!



THOUGH IN TRUTH, I KNOW NOT IF EVEN OUR COMBINED MIGHT SHALL GIVE HIM PAUSE, BUT THIS AT LEAST IS TRUE...



... 'TIS SURTUR WHO IS THE REAL ENEMY!

AND HE SHALL IGNORE THE SON OF ODIN NO LONGER!

WHA--!!

THE FIGURE WAS ONLY A SIMULCRUM OF FLAME THAT DISSOLVES HARMLESSLY EVEN AS I FLY THROUGH IT!

THOR! WHERE'S SURTUR?

GONE, APPARENTLY! BUT I DO NOT--!

WHAT DREADFUL WAIL IS THAT? IT FEELS AS THOUGH IT WOULD SHATTER MY SKILL!

THE GJALLERHORN! HEIMDALL SOUNDS THE GJALLERHORN!

THE ENEMIES OF THE GODS STAND BEFORE THE GATES OF ASGARD!

CURSE ME FOR A FOOL! T'WAS SURTUR'S PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING!

HE FIRED THE CITY THAT I MIGHT QUENCH THE BLAZING INFERNO WITH THE POWERS OF STORM AT MY COMMAND...

...AND SO CREATE THE VERY PATH HE SOUGHT TO ASGARD!

BIFROST, THE RAINBOW BRIDGE, HAS TAKEN SURTUR TO THE HEART OF THE GOLDEN REALM...

...AND ONLY MY AGED FATHER NOW STANDS BETWEEN HIM AND THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!

NEXT: THE STORY WE JUST HAD TO CALL...

RAGNAROK & ROLL, TOO!