

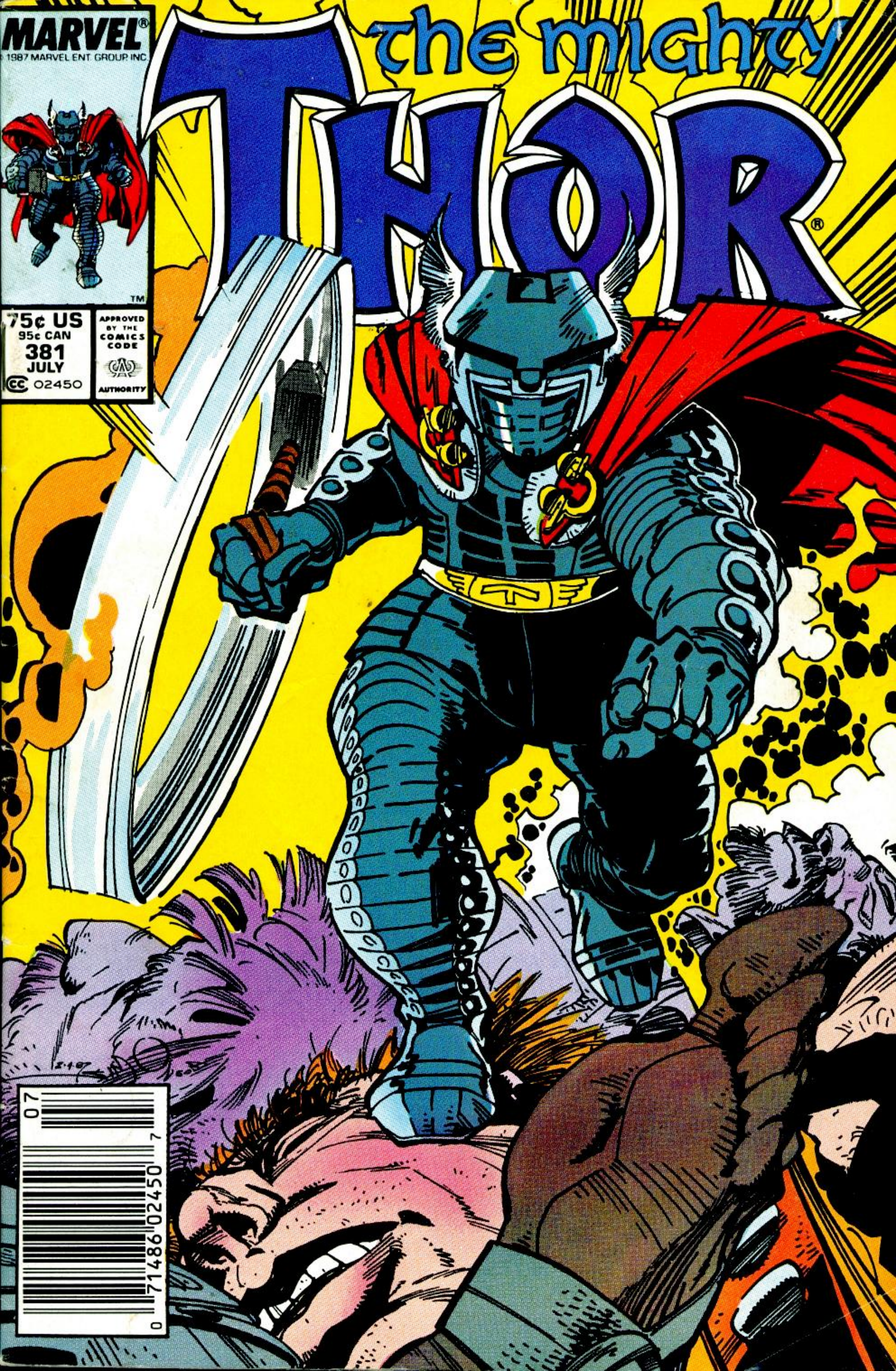
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the mighty THOR



STAN LEE PRESENTS *the* MIGHTY THOR®

THE DELAWARE RIVER BEGINS SOMEWHERE IN THE CATSKILLS OF NEW YORK STATE AND FROM THERE FLOWS SOUTH THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS BETWEEN THE SOVEREIGN STATES OF NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA.

THE MOUNTAINS GUIDE THE RIVER SOUTH, CHANNELING HER COURSE THROUGH DEEP VALLEYS, HEMMING HER IN FROM THE FLAT LANDS EAST AND BLOCKING HER ROUTE TO THE SEA.

BUT IN SOME ANCIENT TIME, THE RIVER ROSE UP IN HER WRATH AND BREACHED THE MOUNTAIN BARRIER.

SHE CUT A GREAT NOTCH THROUGH THE KITTATINNY MOUNTAINS...

...AND FROM THAT TIME FORTH, HER WAY LAY CLEAR TO ROLL ON IRRESISTIBLY TO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

TODAY, THE GREAT RIVER GORGE IS CALLED THE DELAWARE WATER GAP AND EVERY YEAR, MILLIONS OF TRAVELERS DRIVE THROUGH IT ALONGSIDE THE RIVER ON INTER-STATE 80.

BUT SOMETIMES THE TOURISTS WALK.

AND THEY DON'T ALWAYS CARRY CAMERAS.

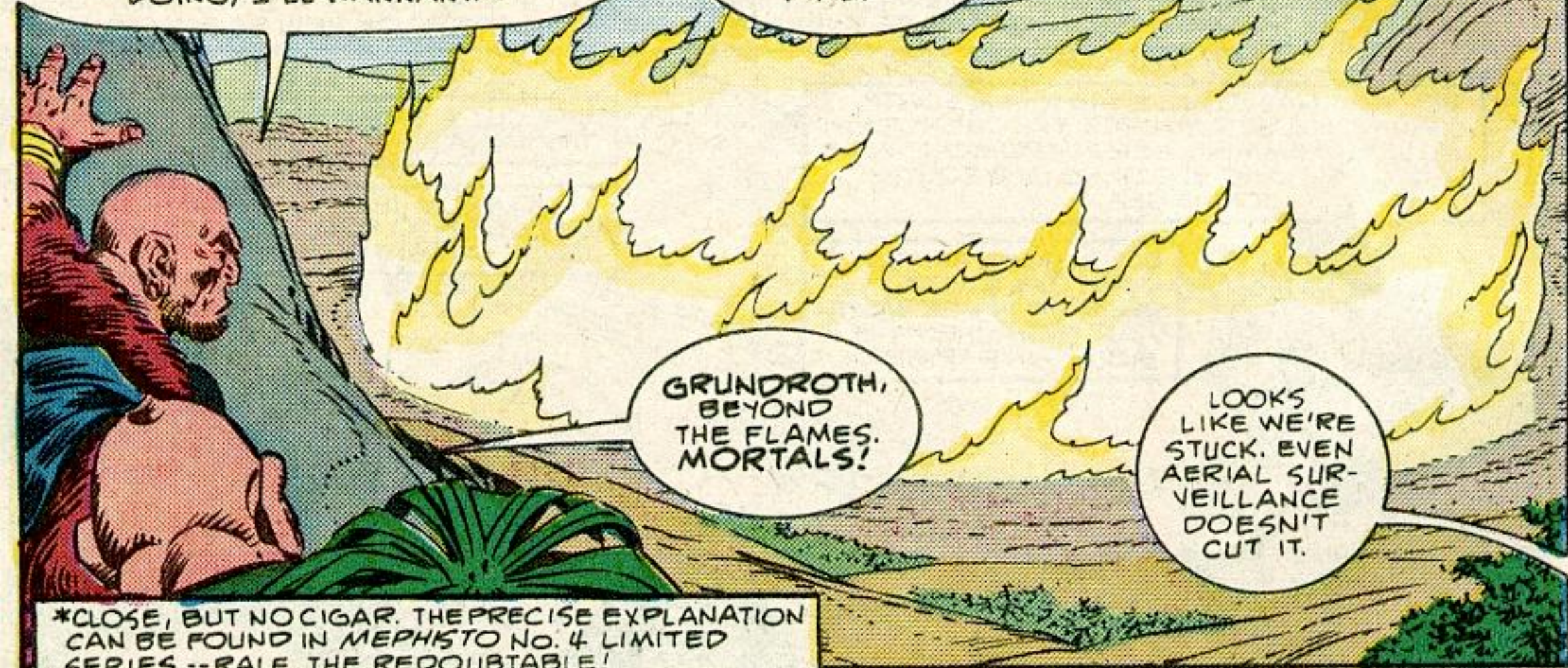
YE OLDE SHELL GAME!

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THERE, BROTHERS! FLAMES OF MYSTIC ORIGIN. THERE IS A STENCH OF THE NIFFLEHEIM BEHIND THEM. HELA'S DOING, I'LL WARRANT.*

MY GUESS IS THAT OUR QUARRY LIES WITHIN THE FIRE.



GRUNDROTH, BEYOND THE FLAMES. MORTALS!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE STUCK. EVEN AERIAL SURVEILLANCE DOESN'T CUT IT.

*CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR. THE PRECISE EXPLANATION CAN BE FOUND IN MEPHISTO NO. 4 LIMITED SERIES --RALF THE REDOUBTABLE!

THAT FIRE'S STOPPING ANYTHING FROM GETTING IN OR OUT, EVEN LIGHT!

THOR, THE AVENGERS, AND GOD ONLY KNOWS WHO ELSE ARE INSIDE THERE!

AND WE CAN'T EVEN GET A LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING!



HOW CAN WE GET A LIVE FEED GOING WHEN WE CAN'T GET TO THE STORY?

MY HUNCH WAS CORRECT! THOR IS WITHIN!

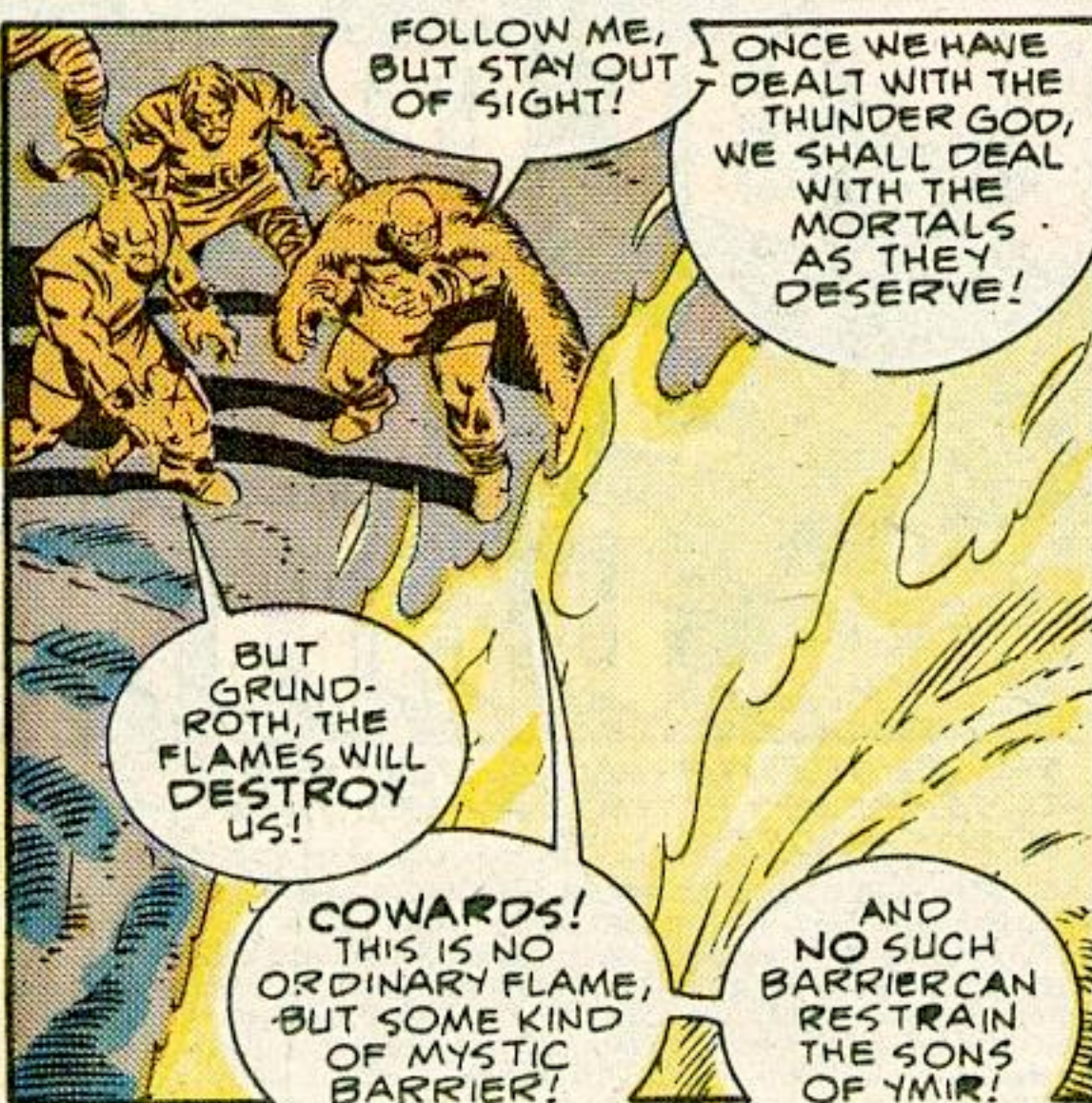


AND IF THE MIDGARD SERPENT WAS EVEN HALF AS GOOD AS HIS BOASTS, THOR WILL BE IN NO CONDITION TO HANDLE A FEW FROST GIANTS!*

*THE SERPENT WASN'T BAD, AS YOU KNOW IF YOU READ LAST ISSUE! --R.

FOLLOW ME, BUT STAY OUT OF SIGHT!

ONCE WE HAVE DEALT WITH THE THUNDER GOD, WE SHALL DEAL WITH THE MORTALS AS THEY DESERVE!



BUT GRUNDROTH, THE FLAMES WILL DESTROY US!

COWARDS! THIS IS NO ORDINARY FLAME, BUT SOME KIND OF MYSTIC BARRIER!

AND NO SUCH BARRIER CAN RESTRAIN THE SONS OF YMIR!

WHEN LOKI RESTORED OUR SIZE, HE INCREASED OUR ICY POWER BEYOND RECKONING.*



*A COUPLE OF ISSUES BACK NOW--OR HAD YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN? WHAT IF THERE WERE A QUIZ? --RALF



...AND THAT POWER IS ENOUGH TO BREACH A SIMPLE WALL OF FIRE!

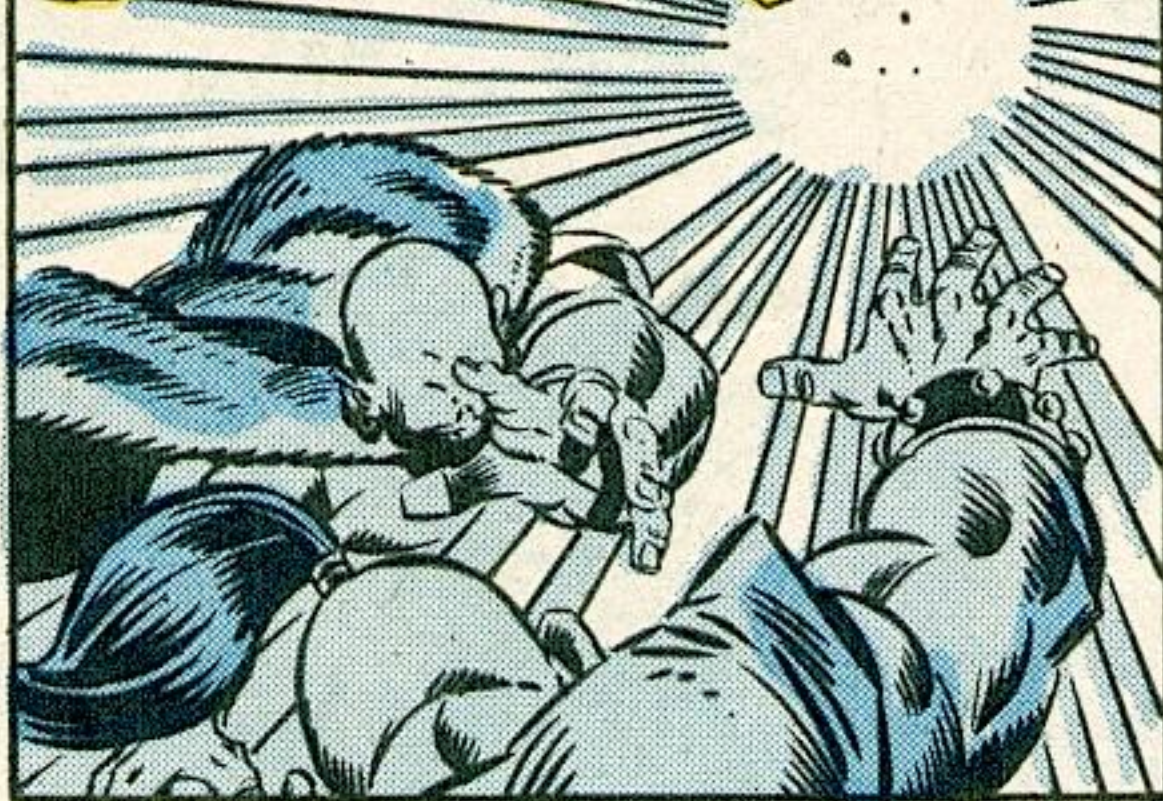
UGGGGH!!



WE DID IT! NOW LET US--

SHIELD YOURSELVES! SOME DEVILTRY IS AT WORK!

SCREEEEEEEEEEEE



IT'S THOR!

HHHHHHHHH!

AND HE'S VANISHING!

WAS IT... WAS IT AN ILLUSION?

SOME TRICK OF HELA'S TO BEFUDDLE OUR SENSES?

NAY, 'T WAS NOT HELA WE SAW, BUT SOME OTHER DENIZEN OF THE REALM OF DEATH!

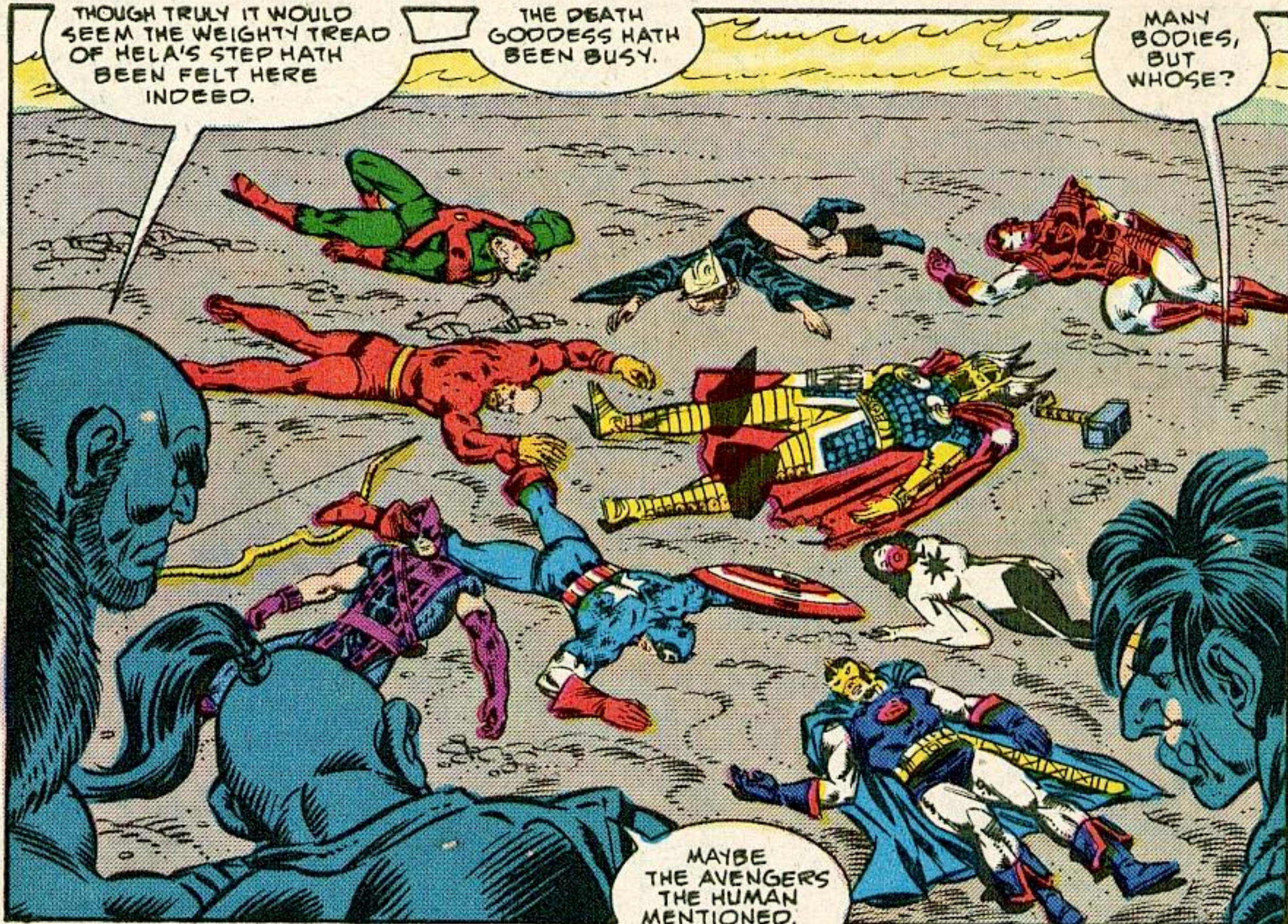
CAN'T YOU SMELL IT?*

*THE PRECISE ANSWER IS IN MEPHISTO No. 4 (PLUG No. 2) --RALF THE RAPACIOUS!

THOUGH TRULY IT WOULD
SEEM THE WEIGHTY TREAD
OF HELA'S STEP HATH
BEEN FELT HERE
INDEED.

THE DEATH
GODDESS HATH
BEEN BUSY.

MANY
BODIES,
BUT
WHOSE?



MAYBE
THE AVENGERS
THE HUMAN
MENTIONED.

BUT
WHAT ARE
AVENGERS?

SOME SORT
OF MORTAL
HEROES, NO
DOUBT.

LITTLE TIN
IDOLS WHOM IT
PLEASES THOR
TO CALL
FRIENDS.

WOE
THAT ANY GOD,
EVEN SUCH A
RECREANT AS THOR,
SHOULD SULLY
HIS HONOR
BY BEFRIEND-
ING BEINGS
AS UNWORTHY
AS MORTALS!

I DON'T
THINK THEY'RE
REALLY DEAD,
JUST UNCON-
SCIOUS. CAN
WE KILL
THEM?

LOOK! HERE IS THE
BODY OF OUR FOE
HIMSELF! 'TWOULD
APPEAR THAT JOR-
MUNGAND WAS
AS GOOD AS
HIS WORD!

SIGGORTH! YOU AND
KLORODDR BE
READY TO--

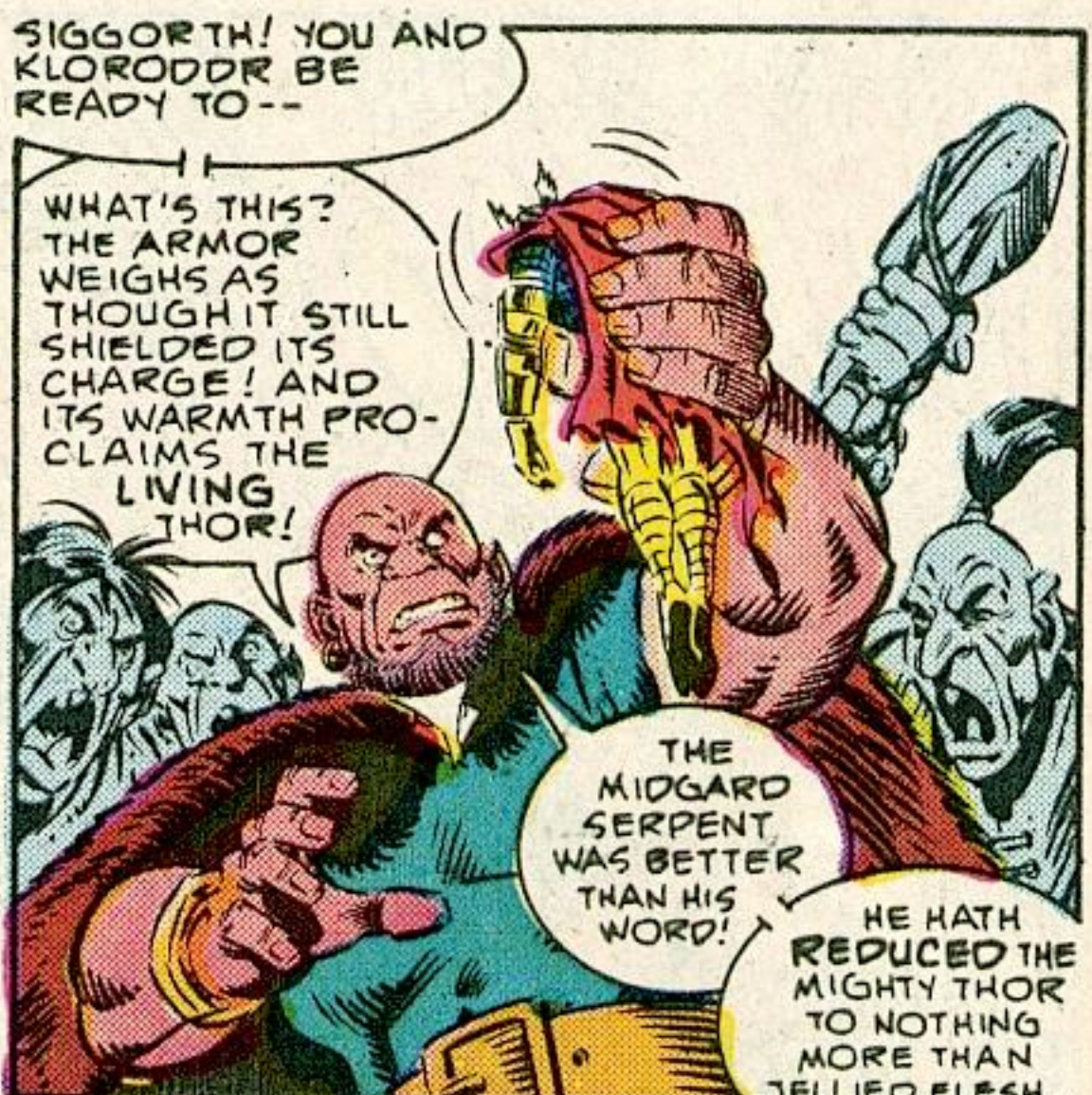
WHAT'S THIS?
THE ARMOR
WEIGHS AS
THOUGH IT STILL
SHIELDED ITS
CHARGE! AND
ITS WARMTH PRO-
CLAIMS THE
LIVING
THOR!

THE
MIDGARD
SERPENT
WAS BETTER
THAN HIS
WORD!

HE HATH
REDUCED THE
MIGHTY THOR
TO NOTHING
MORE THAN
JELLIED FLESH..

THE
FROST
GIANTS'
GREATEST
ENEMY
IS NO MORE!

WAIT! THE
ARMOR IS EMPTY!
COULD THOR HAVE
SIMPLY LEFT IT BEHIND?
WAS THAT TRULY
HE WHO VANISHED?





...AND ONLY HIS ARMOR GIVES OUR ERSTWHILE FOE ANY SEMBLANCE OF FORM!

THE GIANTS AT LAST HAVE THE VICTORY!

SIGGORTH! A PIECE OF YOUR CLOAK! QUICKLY!

HEY!

WHADAYA THINK YER--?



SILENCE, FOOL! I HAVE GRANTED YOU A SINGULAR HONOR!

FOR YOUR CLOAK AND YOURS ALONE HAS BECOME THE FINAL FETTER THAT WILL BIND THOR FOREVER TO THE GIANTS' WILL.



FOR NOW, THOR'S ARMOR HATH BECOME HIS PRISON!

SSKERASSH!



THANKS TO HELA'S CURSE,* HE CANNOT DIE BUT IS SEALED ALIVE WITHIN THE COFFIN OF HIS OWN DEVISING!

*A FEW ISSUES BACK--R.



AND TO GRUNDROTH ALONE SHALL GO THE GLORY OF HIS CAPTURE!

TO GRUNDROTH ALONE SHALL COME THE GLORY OF THE UNCHALLENGED LEADERSHIP OF THE ETINS* OF JOTUNHEIM!

*GIANTS



GET HIM!

BUT FIRST, MY FRIENDS, LET NO GIANT SAY OF US THAT WE DID NOT SUBDUCE THE MIGHTY GOD OF THUNDER PROPERLY!

NEITHER UTGARD-LOKI NOR ANY RIVAL SHALL BE ABLE TO SAY ME NAY WHEN WE RETURN HOME WITH A CAPTIVE SUCH AS THOR!

TTHWACK!

UKRUNGCHH!

YOU GUYS
FEEL A
RUMBLE,
LIKE THE
GROUND
SHAK-
ING?

WELL, IF WE'RE
HAVING AN EARTH-
QUAKE, AT LEAST
IT'LL BE SOME
KIND OF
STORY.

HOW'S THIS GONNA
PLAY ON THE SIX
O'CLOCK NEWS?
"AND NOW, ACE
NEWSHOUND CHUCK
CHERCKLE PRESENTS
A COUPLE OF
HOURS OF COM-
BUSTION!"

NOT TO MENTION
THE COLD SHOULDER
WE'RE GONNA GET
WHEN WE TURN IN
THE EXPENSE RE-
PORT ON THIS
LITTLE NUMBER.

FIRST THERE'S A
DRAGON, THEN THERE'S
THOR, THEN THERE'S NO
DRAGON AND NO
THOR, AND NOW IT
FEELS LIKE WINTER'S
COMING BACK!

IT'S
ALMOST AS
EXCITING AS
CHANNEL 11'S
CHRISTMAS
YULE LOG!

I...THAT'S
FUNNY. ALL
OF A SUDDEN,
I CAN'T
REMEMBER
WHY WE'RE
HERE!

ME
NEITHER!

THE
HECK WITH
THIS. C'MON,
GUYS. WE'RE
HEADING HOME!

BASH
HIS HEAD
AGAIN!

GIMME
THE
AXE!

THE WALLS OF
FLAME SUDDENLY
BEGIN TO BURN
HIGHER AND
HIGHER!

YET I FEEL
AN ICY WIND,
INTENSIFYING
BY THE
MOMENT.

QUICKLY,
YOU FOOLS!
CEASE YOUR
PLAY AND
FOLLOW ME!
DON'T YOU
FEEL THE
CHILL OF
DEATH IN
THE AIR?

METHINKS
THE CREATOR
OF THE FLAME
RETURNS!
HURRY!

INTO THE
RAVINE!
AND KEEP YOUR
MOUTHS SHUT!

AND, AS GRUNDROTH AND HIS LACKEYS HIDE THEMSELVES FROM SIGHT...



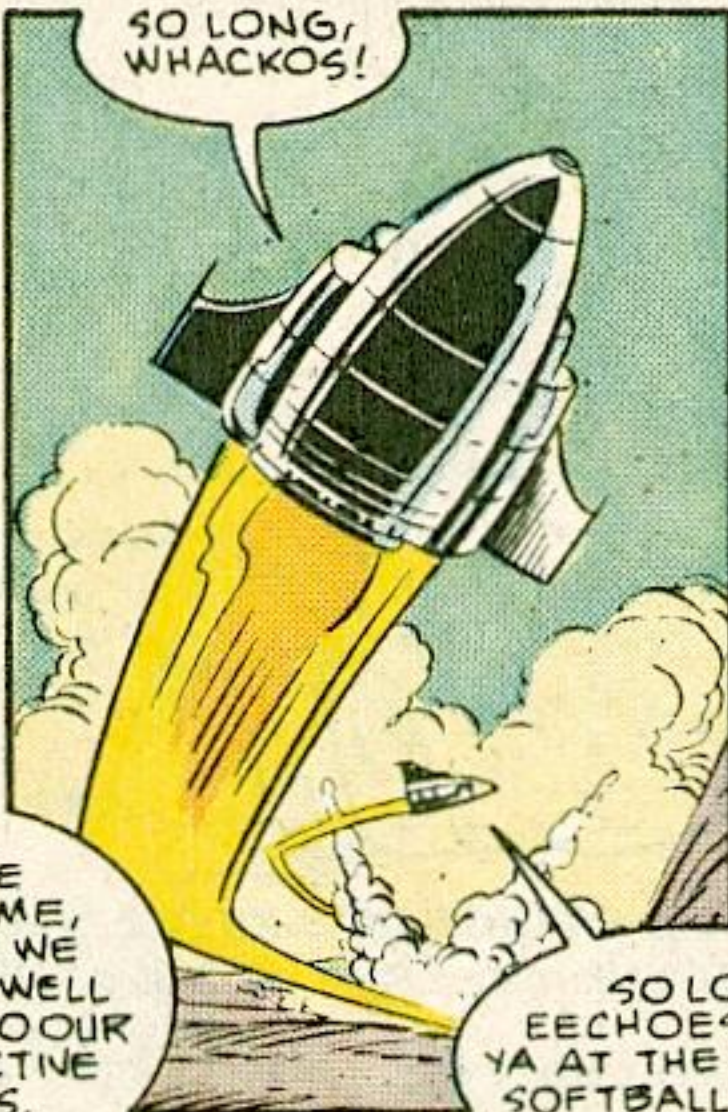
... THE WALL OF FLAME ABRUPTLY VANISHES...

... AND THE AVENGERS, FOR IT IS INDEED THEY, BEGIN TO RECOVER CONSCIOUSNESS.

I SENSE SORCEROUS POWERS AT WORK. PERHAPS IN TIME, I CAN FIND THE SOURCE OF OUR CONFUSION.

WH-WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

BEATS ME, SHE-HULK. SOME KIND OF MENACE OR EMERGENCY...



SO LONG, WHACKOS!

IN THE MEANTIME, I GUESS WE MAY AS WELL RETURN TO OUR RESPECTIVE BASES.

SO LONG, EECCHOES! SEE YA AT THE ANNUAL SOFTBALL GAME!



THE MORTALS HAVE ALL DEPARTED, AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED!

I DON'T LIKE IT. IT'S AS THOUGH THEY'VE FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED HERE!



BUT THEY'VE TAKEN THE SMELL OF MAGIC WITH THEM!

WHAT-EVER OCCURRED HERE, IT IS FINISHED.*

BUT THOR REMAINS.



AND SO DOES THE GIANT VICTORY.

COME, BROTHERS! LET'S FINISH OUR GAME BEFORE WE RETURN HOME!

* WHICH IS JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT IF YOU'D READ MEPHISTO NO. 4 -- THIRDO AND FINAL PLUG -- RAMBLIN' RALF!

BUT AS THE GIANTS GATHER AROUND THE SILENT FORM OF THOR...

... A MALEVOLENT, NEARLY INVISIBLE FORM DRIFTS SILENTLY OVER-HEAD.

THIS GAME IS STILL FAR FROM OVER, CLODS!

YOU WOULD HAVE SLAIN LOKI, HAD NO THOR COME TO MY AID.*

*THOR 378--RALF THE PRECISE!

THUS YOU HAVE LEFT ME WITH A DEBT TO THE ONE BEING I DESPISE MOST IN ALL THE NINE WORLDS!

MY STEP-BROTHER!

HOWEVER, I HAVE ARRANGED A SUITABLE ENTERTAINMENT.

AND NO REPARATION CAN EVER RECOMPENSE ME SUFFICIENTLY FOR THAT!

I HAVE BROUGHT MY PRIZE ALL THE WAY FROM THE ANDES MOUNTAINS...

...AND I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY IT AS MUCH AS I!

HUHH?

KRANNGG!

BRARATTHMM!

WHO--WHO'RE YOU? AND HOW CAME A GIANT LASS TO MIDGARD?*

AREN'T YOU SIGGORTH, ONE OF THOSE BRAVE FELLOWS WHO CAPTURED THOR?

I'M GIRTHRRUD AND I'D REALLY LIKE TO GET CLOSE TO ONE OF YOU LADS.

*EARTH



YEH?
YEH?

I WELL, I'M
JUST THE
RIGHT GUY TO
GIT CLOSE
TO, HONEY.

HOW'S
ABOUT YOU
AND ME,
WE --

ALAS, WE SHALL NEVER KNOW JUST WHAT SIGGORTH
HAD IN MIND, FOR, AS HE TAKES A STEP TOWARD
"GIRTHRRUD"...

...HE FAILS TO NOTICE
THE STRANGE METAL
"POND" UP WHICH
GIRTHRRUD STANDS...

SKATTHH!

... AND AFTER THAT,
HE NO LONGER
NOTICES ANYTHING
AT ALL.



CARLOS,
HOLD
IT!

DID YOU
NOTICE A
FLASH OF
LIGHT
BACK
THERE?

OH,
FOR
PETE'S
SAKE!

MAYBE WE
OUGHT TO
TAKE ONE MORE
SWING AROUND
JUST TO MAKE
SURE NOTHING'S
REALLY HAP-
PENING!



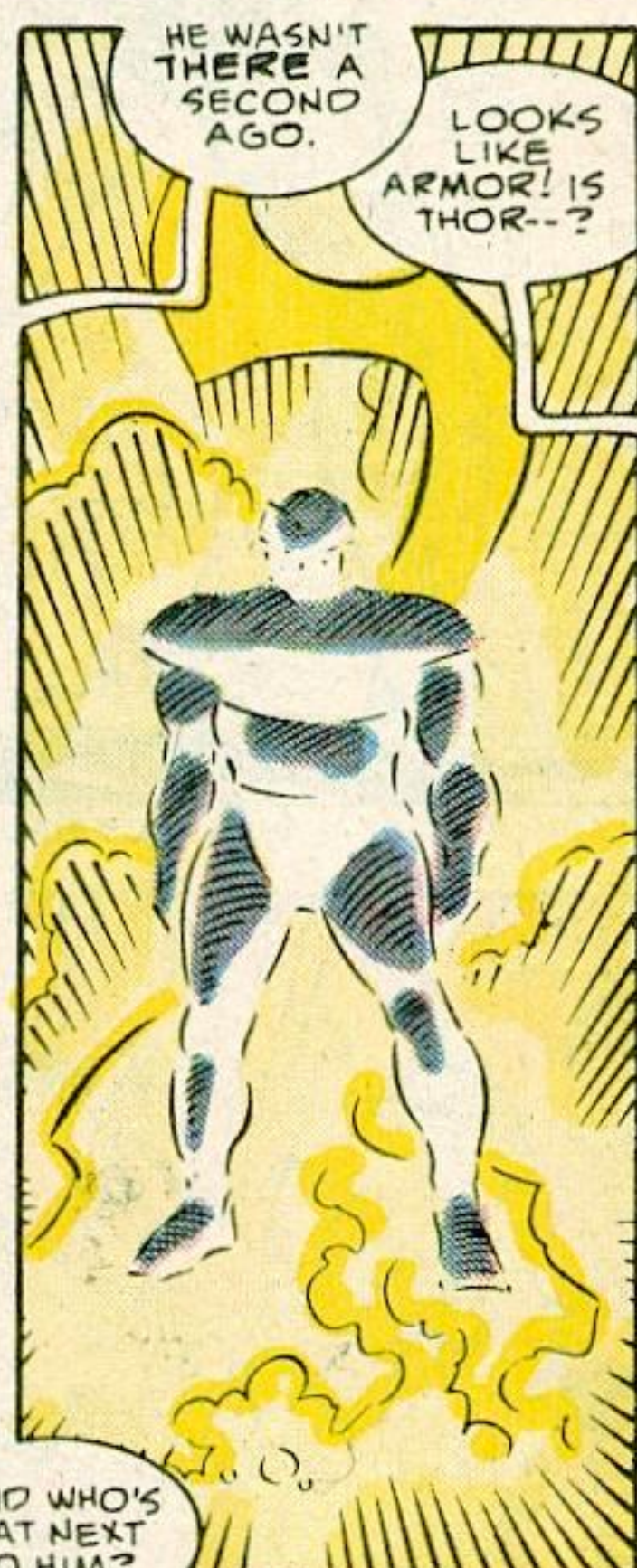
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

I
CAN'T
SEE!



IT'S SIG-
GORTH!
BUT HE'S...
HE'S NOT
MOVING!

LOOKS LIKE
HE'S FROZEN!
SIGGORTH!
WHAT'DYA THINK
YOU'RE DOING?



HE WASN'T
THERE A
SECOND
AGO.

LOOKS
LIKE
ARMOR! IS
THOR--?

AND WHO'S
THAT NEXT
TO HIM?



WHAT'S THAT THING? T'AIN'T THOR!

YOU ABYSMAL FOOL! DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE...

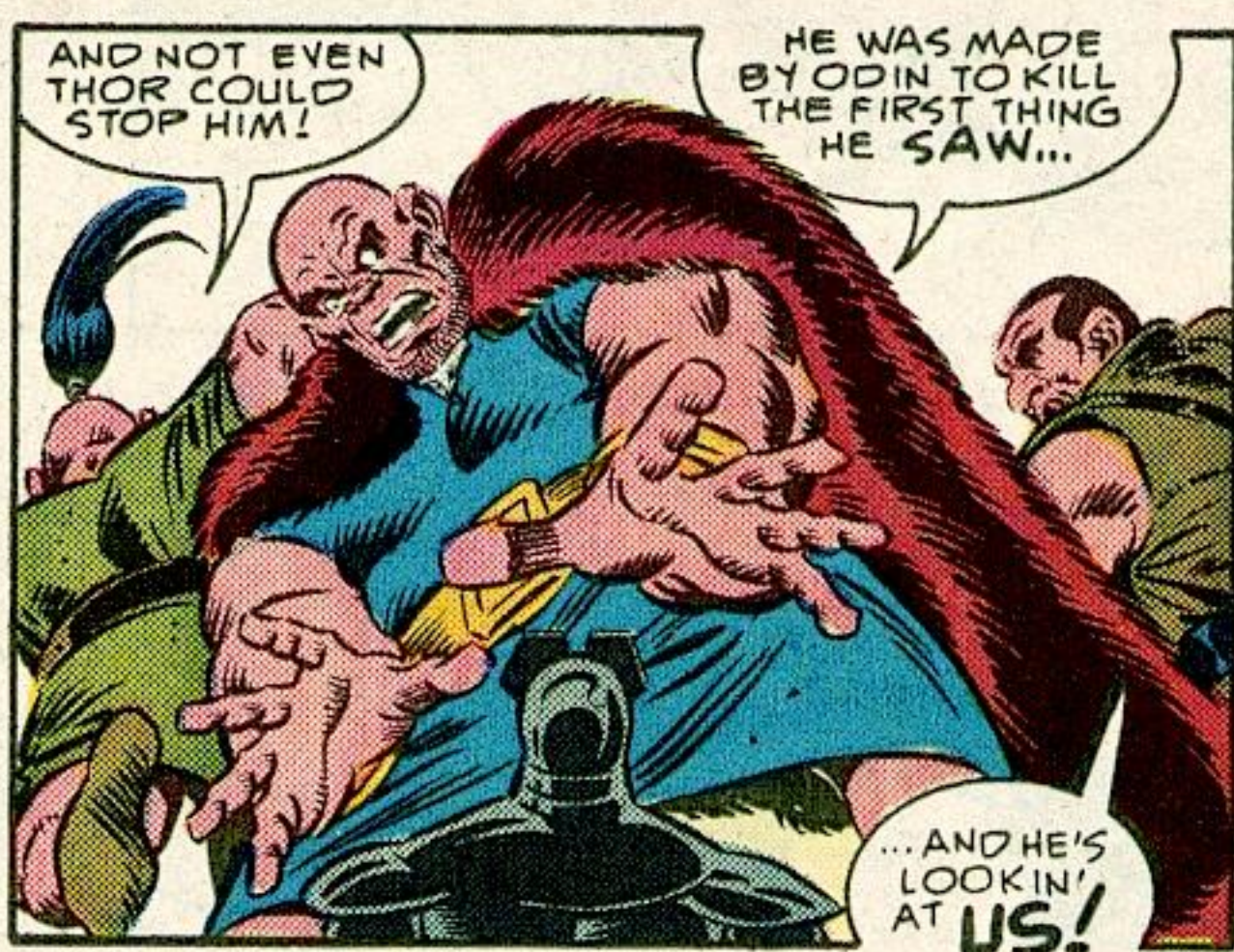


...THE DESTROYER?!!!

BUT-- BUT HE WUZ SUPPOSED TO BE DESTROYED! GONE! MELTED INTA SLAG!*

HE ABSORBED THE LIFE FORCE OF ANY-BODY WHO GOT TOO CLOSE TO HIM AND CAME ALIVE!

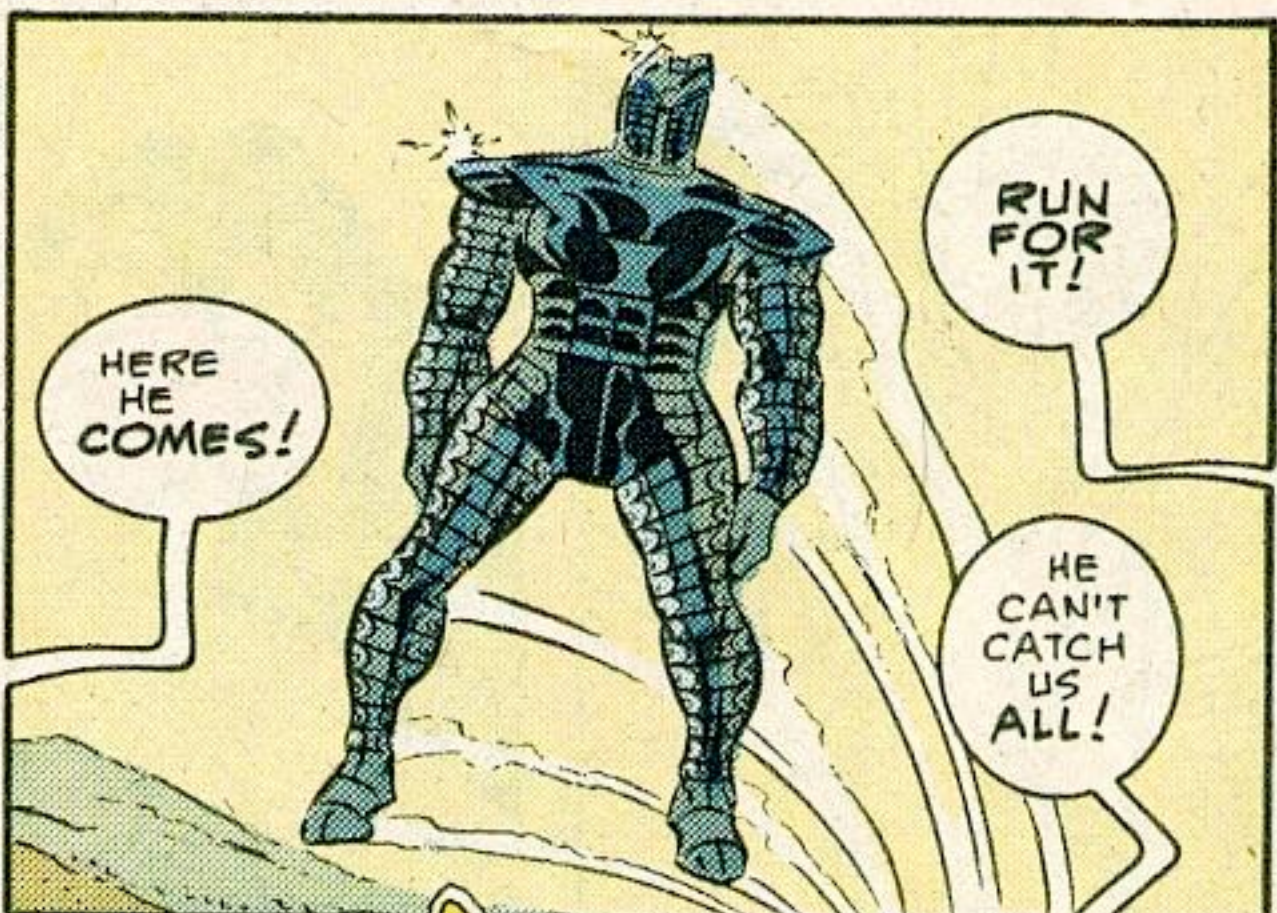
*AS INDEED HE WAS IN THOR 300!--R



AND NOT EVEN THOR COULD STOP HIM!

HE WAS MADE BY ODIN TO KILL THE FIRST THING HE SAW...

...AND HE'S LOOKIN' AT US!



HERE HE COMES!

RUN FOR IT!

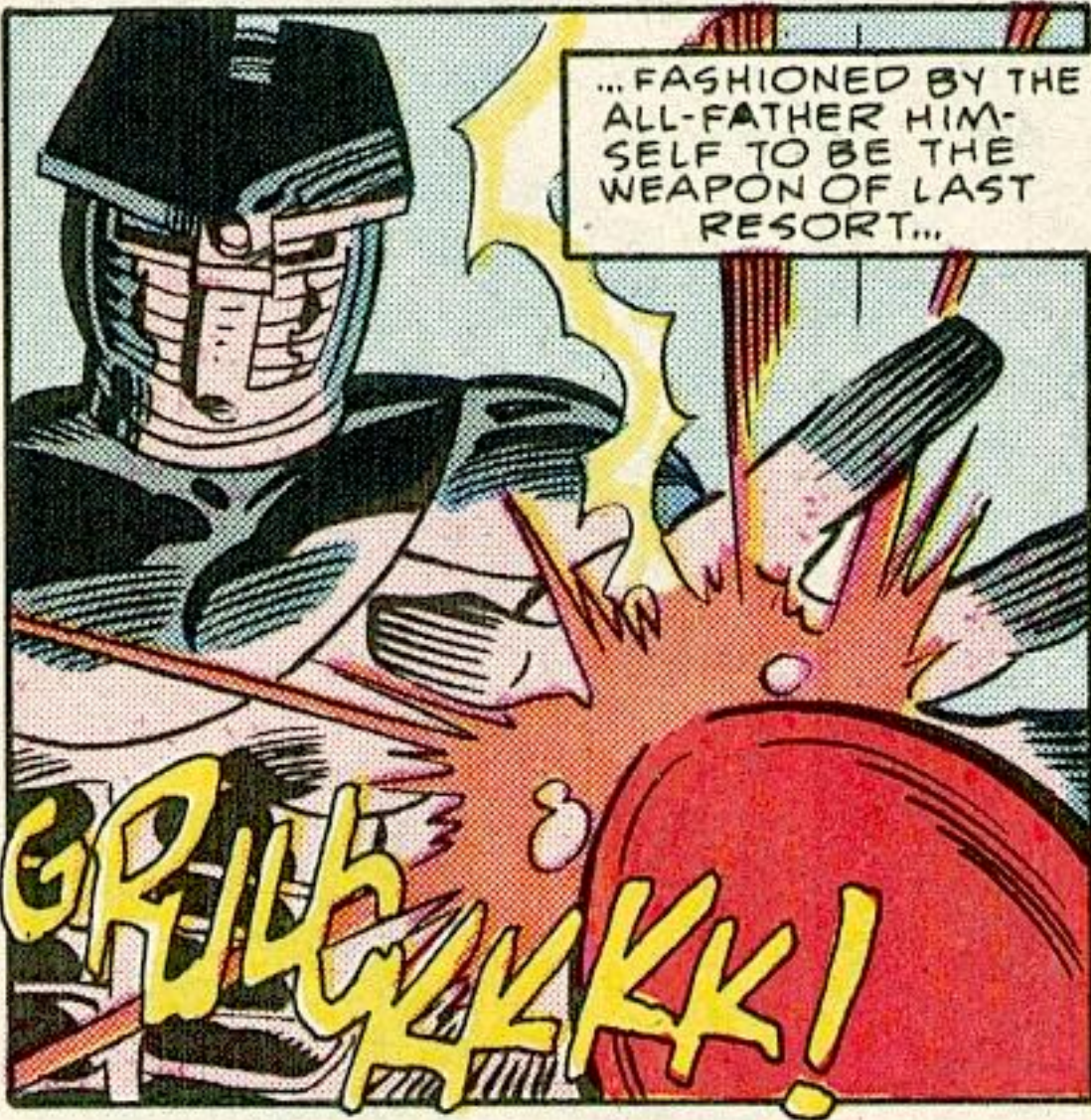
HE CAN'T CATCH US ALL!



THE DESTROYER, DREAD
JUGGERNAUT OF ANOTHER
ERA...



...FASHIONED BY THE
ALL-FATHER HIM-
SELF TO BE THE
WEAPON OF LAST
RESORT...



...AND
DESTROY
HIM.

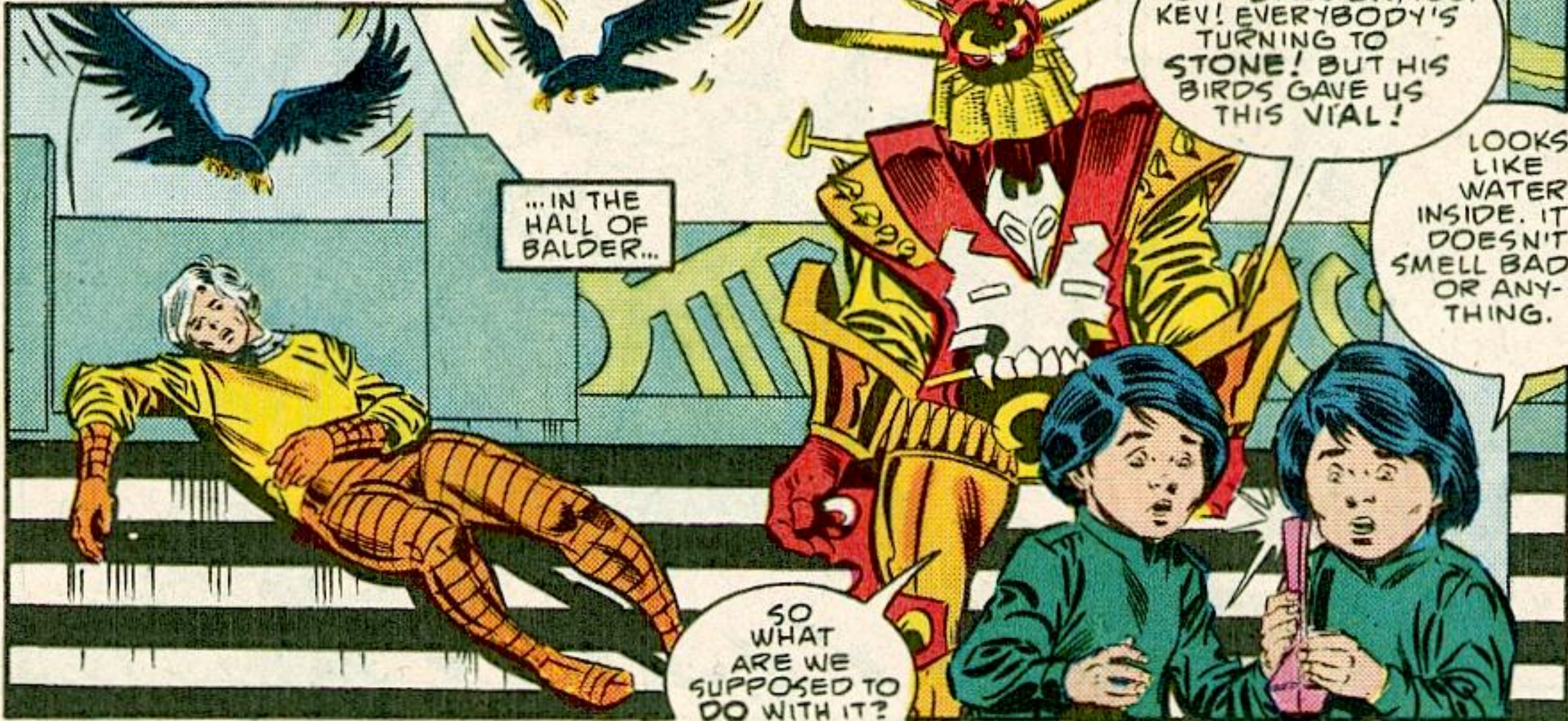


OH, MY LORD!
WHO ARE THOSE
GUYS? AND WHAT'S
THAT THING
THAT'S KILLING
THEM?

DID ANYBODY
REMEMBER TO
GET THE
CAMERAS
OUT OF THE
CHOPPER?



MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY IN ASGARD,
THE HOME OF THE NORSE GODS...



...IN THE
HALL OF
BALDER...

THE SICKNESS'S
GOT BALDER, TOO,
KEV! EVERYBODY'S
TURNING TO
STONE! BUT HIS
BIRDS GAVE US
THIS VIAL!

LOOKS
LIKE
WATER
INSIDE. IT
DOESN'T
SMELL BAD
OR ANY-
THING.

SO WHAT
ARE WE
SUPPOSED TO
DO WITH IT?

I KNOW YOU
HAVEN'T SAID
ANYTHING SO
FAR, MISTER,
BUT CAN'T
YOU HELP--?



MISTER?

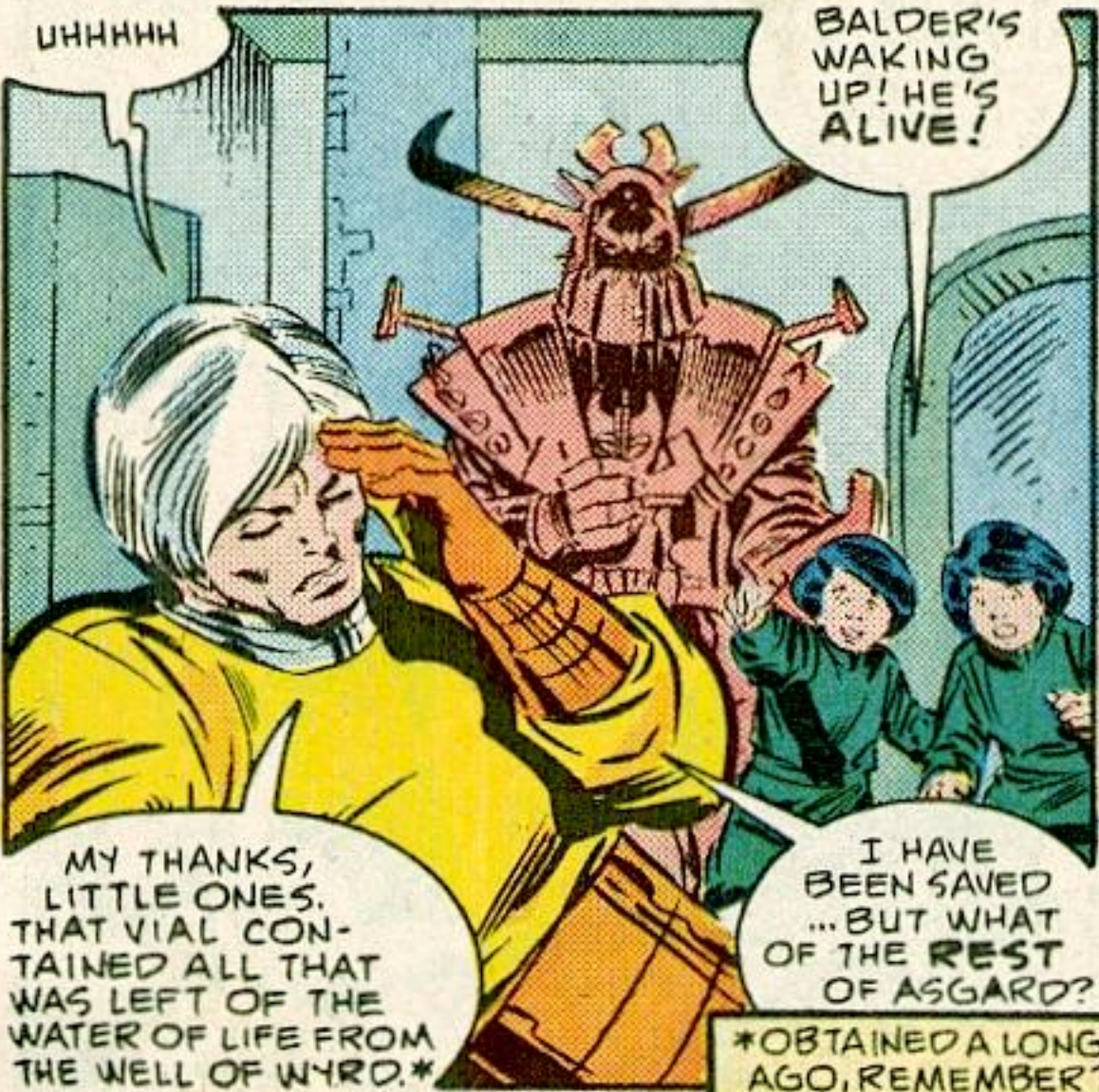


WOW! I'LL
BET IT'S
MEDICINE!



BUT IT
SMELLED
OKAY.

UHHHHH



BALDER'S
WAKING
UP! HE'S
ALIVE!

THE DEADLY
PLAGUE THAT
STRUCK US
DOWN--

MICK!
LOOK!



I HAVE
BEEN SAVED
...BUT WHAT
OF THE REST
OF ASGARD?

*OBTAINED A LONG TIME
AGO, REMEMBER?--R

EVERYBODY
ISN'T DOWN!



IT'S UNCLE VOLSTAGG! HE'S OKAY, TOO!

PURELY A MATTER OF OPINION, YOUNG MICK. I FEEL AS THOUGH THOR'S GOATS WERE GALLOPING THROUGH MY STOMACH!

DADDY ...?



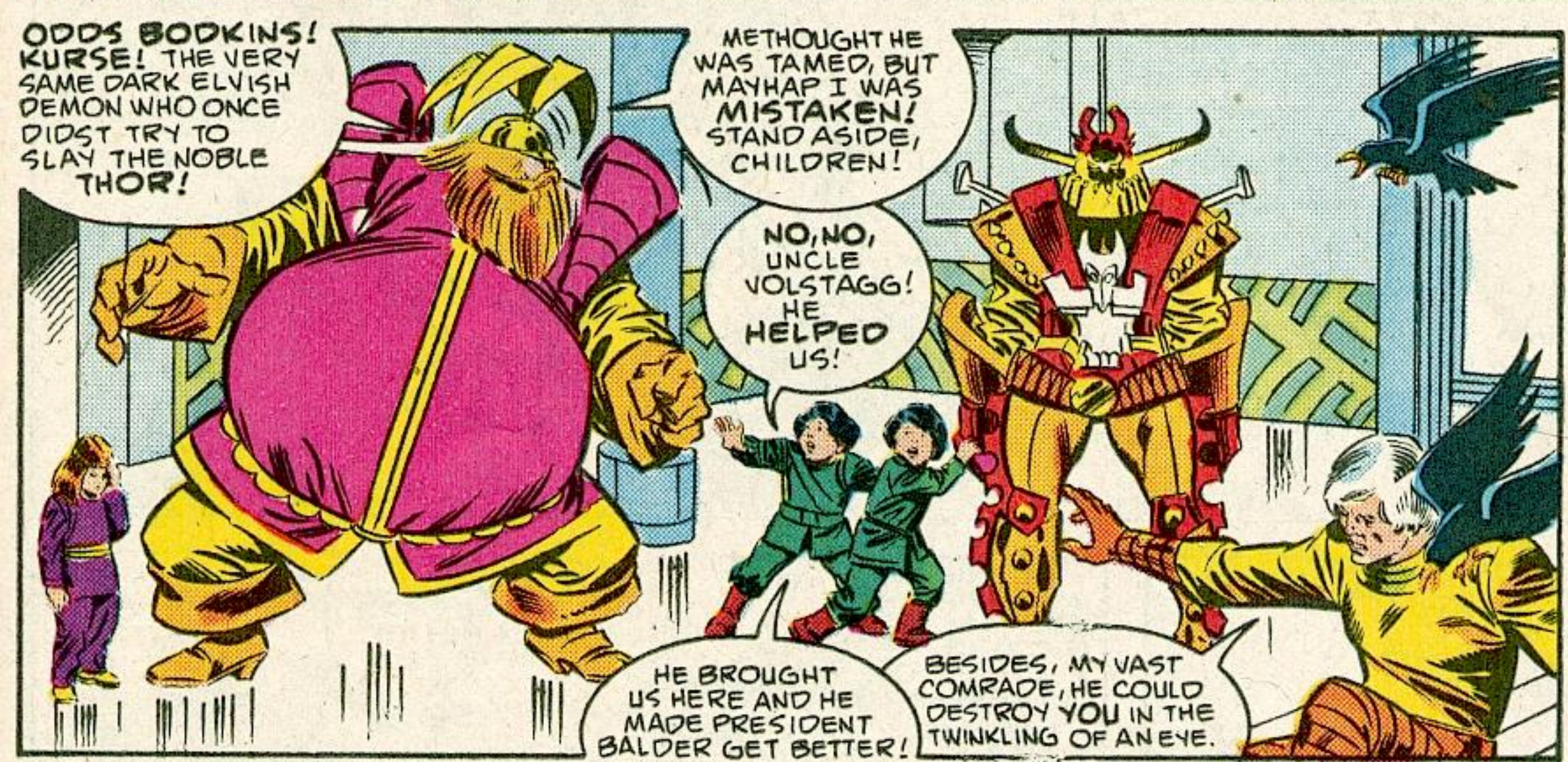
GUNN-HILD!

YOU'RE AWAKE! YOU'RE ALIVE! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

OH, MY CHILD! MAY THE HIGH ONE BE BLESSED FOREVER FOR HAVING SPARED YOU!

BUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS UN-SEEMLY OUT-RAGE?

LET HIM STAND FORTH THAT VOLSTAGG THE ENORMOUS MAY SMITE HIM WHERE HE STANDS!



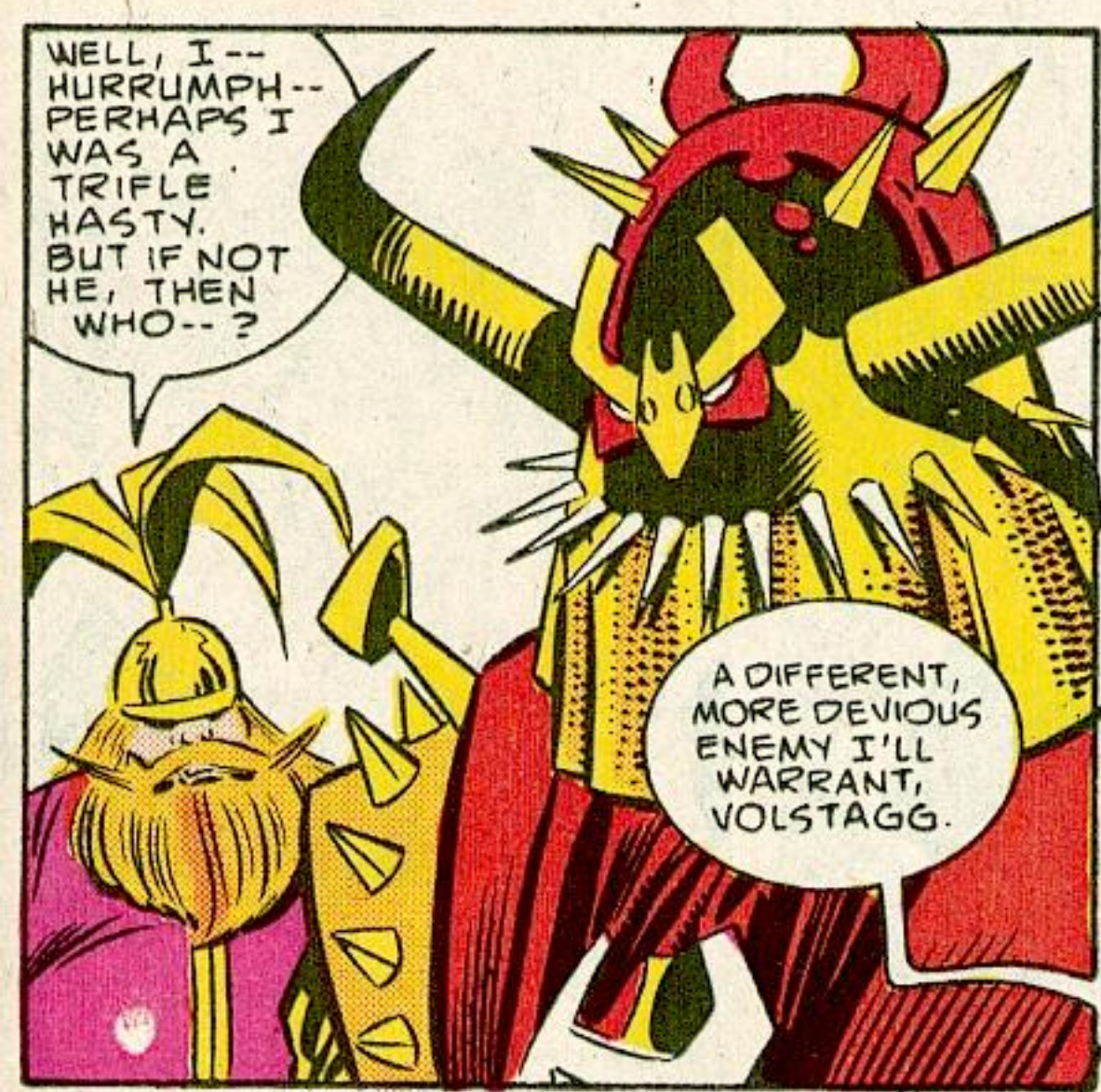
ODDS BODKINS! KURSE! THE VERY SAME DARK ELVISH DEMON WHO ONCE DIDST TRY TO SLAY THE NOBLE THOR!

METHOUGHT HE WAS TAMED, BUT MAYHAP I WAS MISTAKEN! STAND ASIDE, CHILDREN!

NO, NO, UNCLE VOLSTAGG! HE HELPED US!

HE BROUGHT US HERE AND HE MADE PRESIDENT BALDER GET BETTER!

BESIDES, MY VAST COMRADE, HE COULD DESTROY YOU IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE.



WELL, I-- HURRUMPH-- PERHAPS I WAS A TRIFLE HASTY. BUT IF NOT HE, THEN WHO--?

A DIFFERENT, MORE DEVIOUS ENEMY I'LL WARRANT, VOLSTAGG.



AND IT SHALL BE OUR TASK TO IDENTIFY HIM AND SEE THAT HE DOES NOT ENJOY THE FRUITS OF HIS EVIL.

WHAT INTERESTS ME IS HOW YOU AND HILDY ESCAPED THE WORST EFFECTS OF THE PLAGUE.

THE MORTAL CHILDREN I UNDERSTAND. PERHAPS THE SICKNESS AFFECTS ONLY ASGARDIANS.

BUT YOU AND HILDY? I FIND THAT VERY--UHH...

BALDER! YOU'RE FALLING.

NEVER FEAR. KURSE SHALL BE MY LEGS UNTIL I AM MORE FULLY RECOVERED.

IN THE MEANTIME, LET US SEE WHAT WE CAN SEE FROM ODIN'S HIGH SEAT.

PERHAPS FROM HLIDSKJALF, THINGS NOW HIDDEN FROM OUR SIGHT WILL BE MADE CLEAR.

DO YOU SEE, KURSE? FROM HERE, THE ALL-FATHER WAS WONT TO PEER INTO ALL CORNERS OF THE NINE WORLDS.

EVEN INTO YOUR HOME, SVARTALFHEIM.

BUT WHAT'S THIS I SPY IN JOTUNHEIM? T'WOULD APPEAR THAT OUR ANCIENT FOES, THE FROST GIANTS HAVE LEARNED OF OUR MISFORTUNES.

'TIS TRUE. THE ASGARDIANS HAVE BEEN LAID LOW BY A PLAGUE NOT UNLIKE THE ONE I UNLEASHED IN KARNILLA'S REALM.*

WE MAY NOT YET HAVE RECOVERED OUR FULL HEIGHT, BUT WE SHALL NEVER HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO REVENGE OURSELVES ON THE ASGARDIANS!

AND EVEN NOW, UTGARD-LOKI MAKES PLANS TO PROFIT BY THEM.

*IN THE BALDER THE BRAVE LIMITED SERIES--R.

AND WITH ASGARD BENEATH OUR HEELS, WE SHALL REIGN TRIUMPHANT IN JOTUNHEIM AS WELL!

SOUND THE CALL TO ARMS!



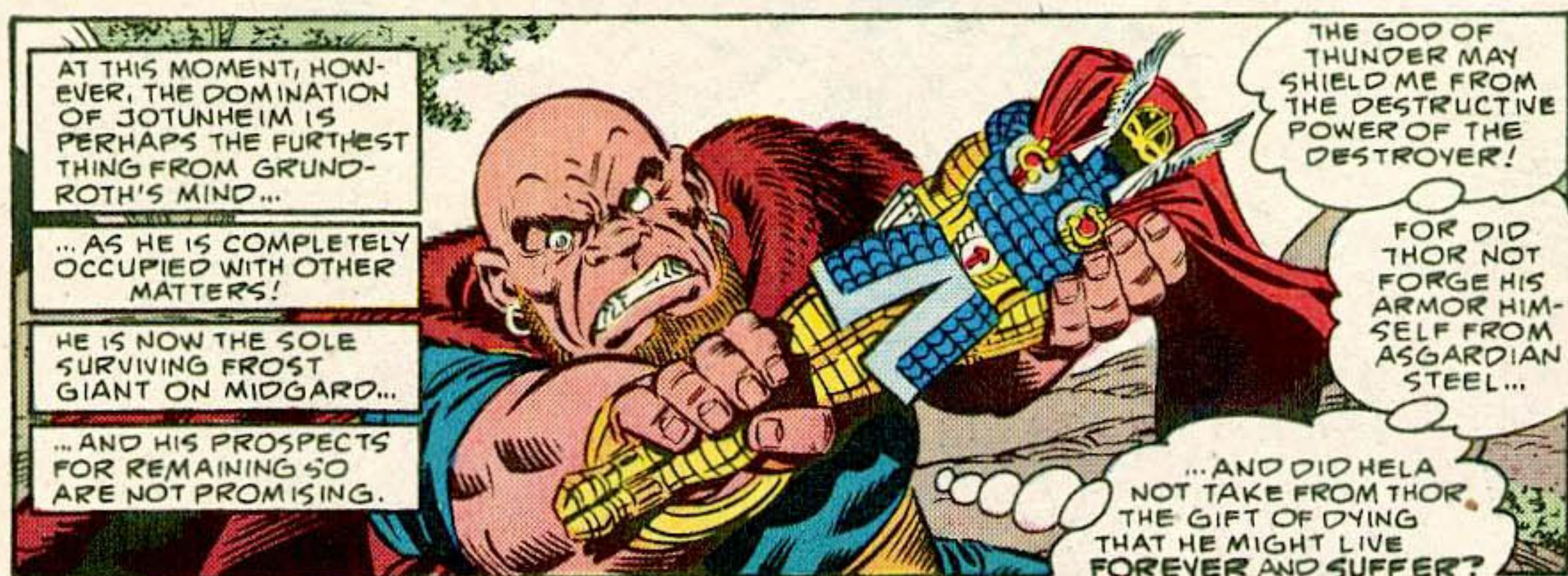
AND SHORTLY, UNDER
THE LOWERING SKIES
OF GIANT HOME...

FOR
UTGARD-
LOKI!

DEATH
TO ALL
ASGARD-
IANS!

WHEN WE ARE
THROUGH, THE TRAITOR,
GRUNDROTH AND HIS
ENTIRE BAND WILL
BEND THEIR
KNEES BEFORE
ME IN HOMAGE
OR DIE!

THEN WILL
UTGARD-LOKI
BE ACKNOWLEDGED
THE SOLE RULER OF
THE FROST GIANTS!



AT THIS MOMENT, HOW-
EVER, THE DOMINATION
OF JOTUNHEIM IS
PERHAPS THE FURTHEST
THING FROM GRUND-
ROTH'S MIND...

... AS HE IS COMPLETELY
OCCUPIED WITH OTHER
MATTERS!

HE IS NOW THE SOLE
SURVIVING FROST
GIANT ON MIDGARD...

... AND HIS PROSPECTS
FOR REMAINING SO
ARE NOT PROMISING.

THE GOD OF
THUNDER MAY
SHIELD ME FROM
THE DESTRUCTIVE
POWER OF THE
DESTROYER!

FOR DID
THOR NOT
FORGE HIS
ARMOR HIM-
SELF FROM
ASGARDIAN
STEEL...

... AND DID HELA
NOT TAKE FROM THOR
THE GIFT OF DYING
THAT HE MIGHT LIVE
FOREVER AND SUFFER?



IF HE CANNOT
DIE, MAYHAP EVEN
ODIN'S DESTROYER
CANNOT SLAY
HIM AND HIS
BODY WILL
PROTECT ME!

SKRACEETT!

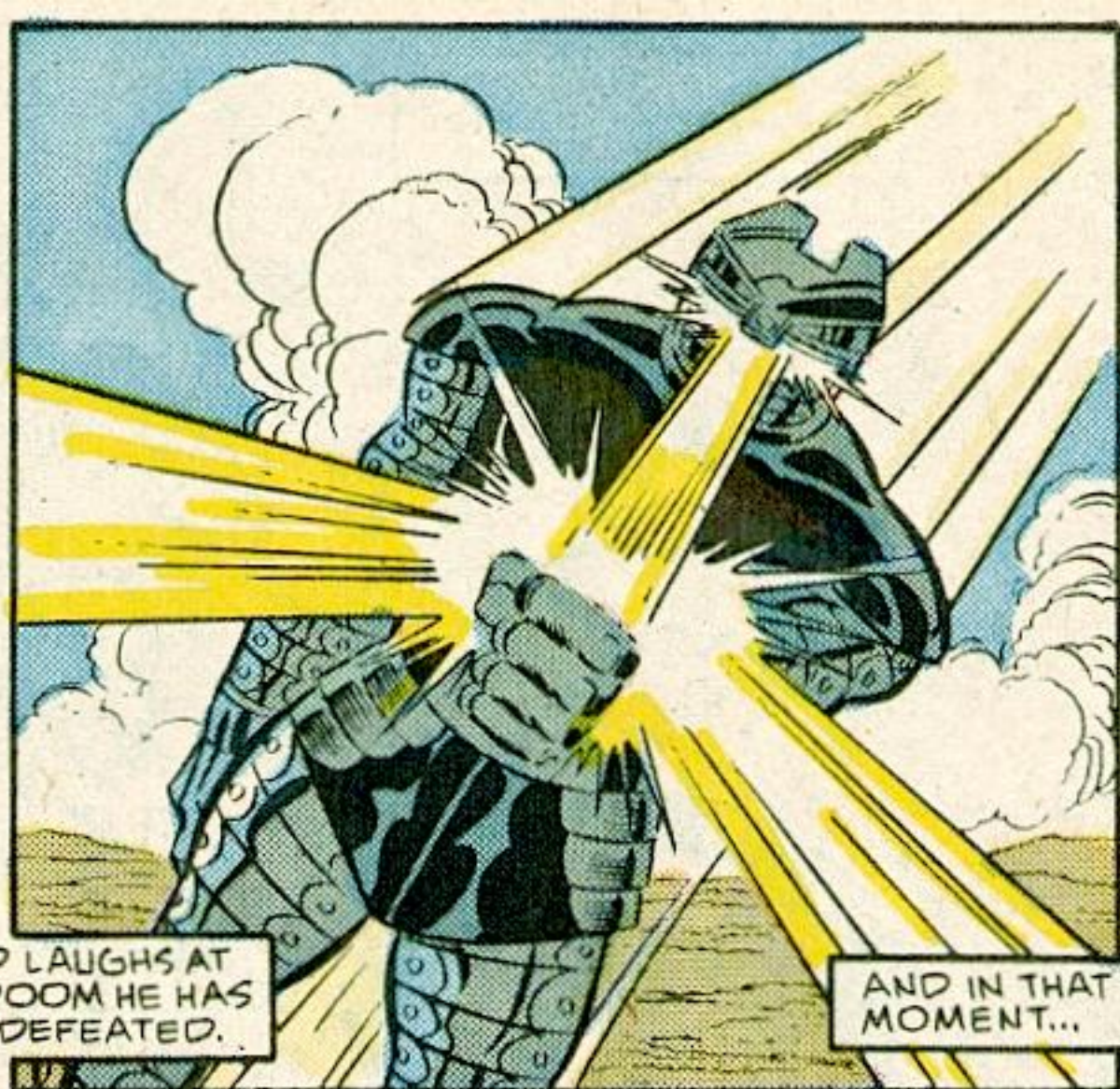
THRASHING!

IT WORKED!
THOR'S BODY
HATH SHIELDED
ME FROM THE
DESTROYER'S
DEADLY
FORCE!

FOR A MOMENT,
GRUNDROTH HOLDS
HIS FATE IN HIS
HANDS...



...AND LAUGHS AT
THE DOOM HE HAS
JUST DEFEATED.



AND IN THAT
MOMENT...

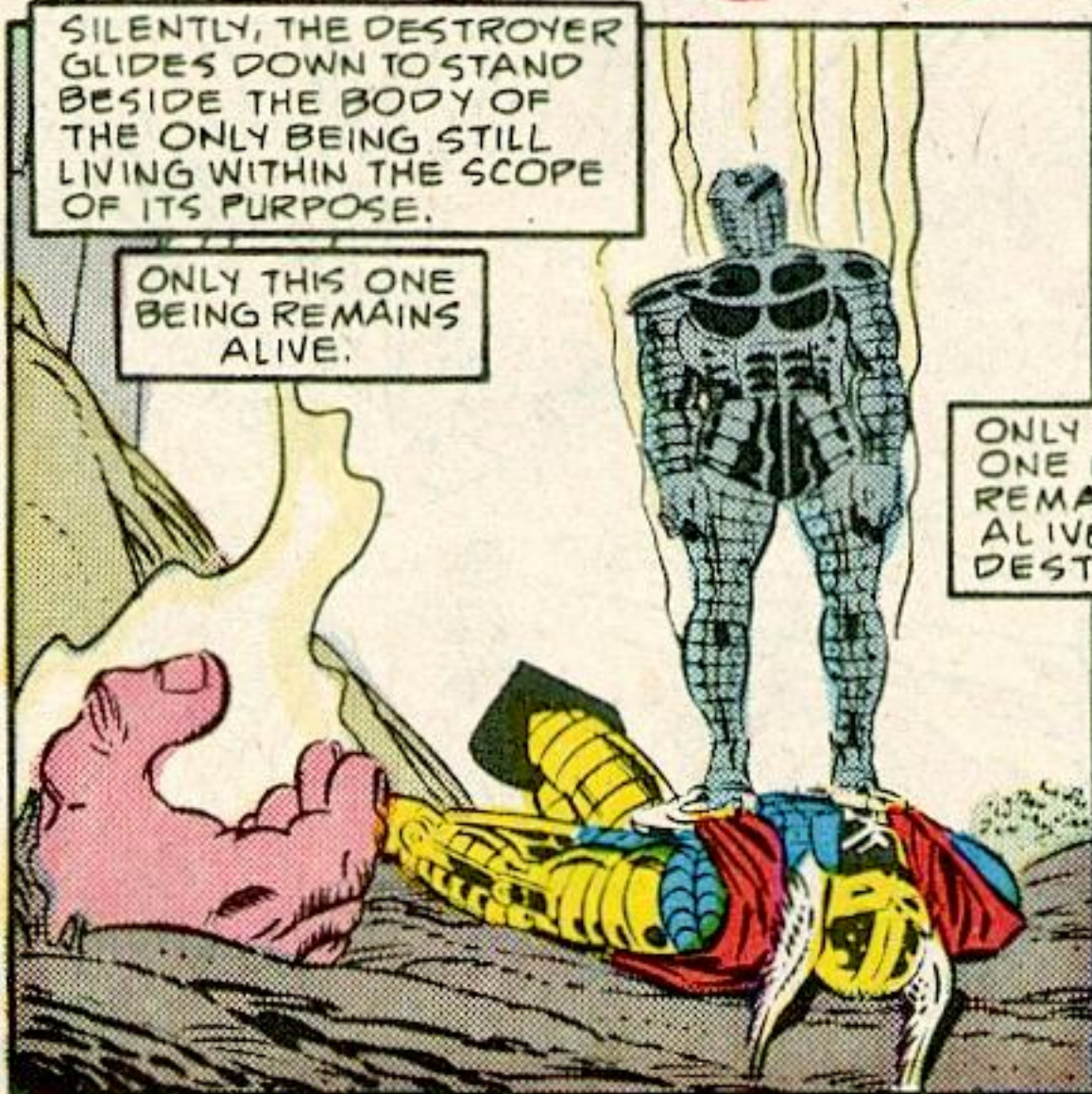
...THE ERSTWHILE
LEADER OF THE
FROST GIANTS
GIVES UP HIS
DREAMS OF
CONQUEST...



...FOREVER!

SILENTLY, THE DESTROYER
GLIDES DOWN TO STAND
BESIDE THE BODY OF
THE ONLY BEING STILL
LIVING WITHIN THE SCOPE
OF ITS PURPOSE.

ONLY THIS ONE
BEING REMAINS
ALIVE.



ONLY THIS
ONE BEING
REMAINS
ALIVE TO BE
DESTROYED.

AND THE THUNDER GOD IS TOTALLY HELP-
LESS, UNABLE EVEN TO LIFT A FINGER.

ALL OF WHICH
AMUSES LOKI,
LAUFHEY'S SON,
IMMENSELY!



WHAT
NOW, YOU
MINDLESS
CRETIN?

LOKI'S REVENGE AGAINST THE GIANTS IS COMPLETE.

THOUGH ODIN'S CREATION WAS REDUCED TO A POND OF SLAG BY THE CELESTIALS, HE COULD NOT BE TOTALLY UNMADE.



*THOR 300--R.

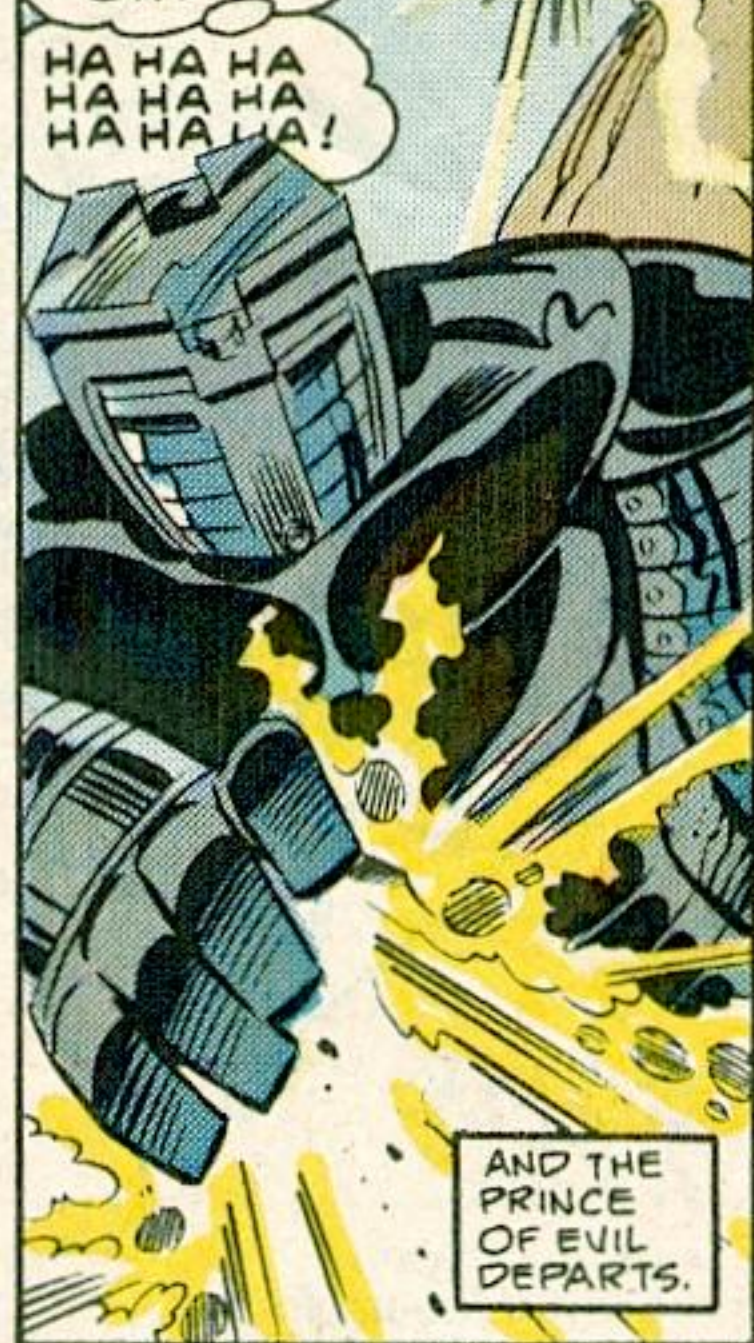
AND THE PROXIMITY OF A LIVING BEING WAS ENOUGH TO REGENERATE HIM.



NOW, HE WILL SPEND THE REST OF ETERNITY TRYING TO DESTROY THAT WHICH CANNOT BE SLAIN! ENJOY YOURSELF, BROTHER!

PERHAPS I SHALL RETURN IN A FEW HUNDRED YEARS TO SEE HOW THE TWO OF YOU ARE GETTING ON!

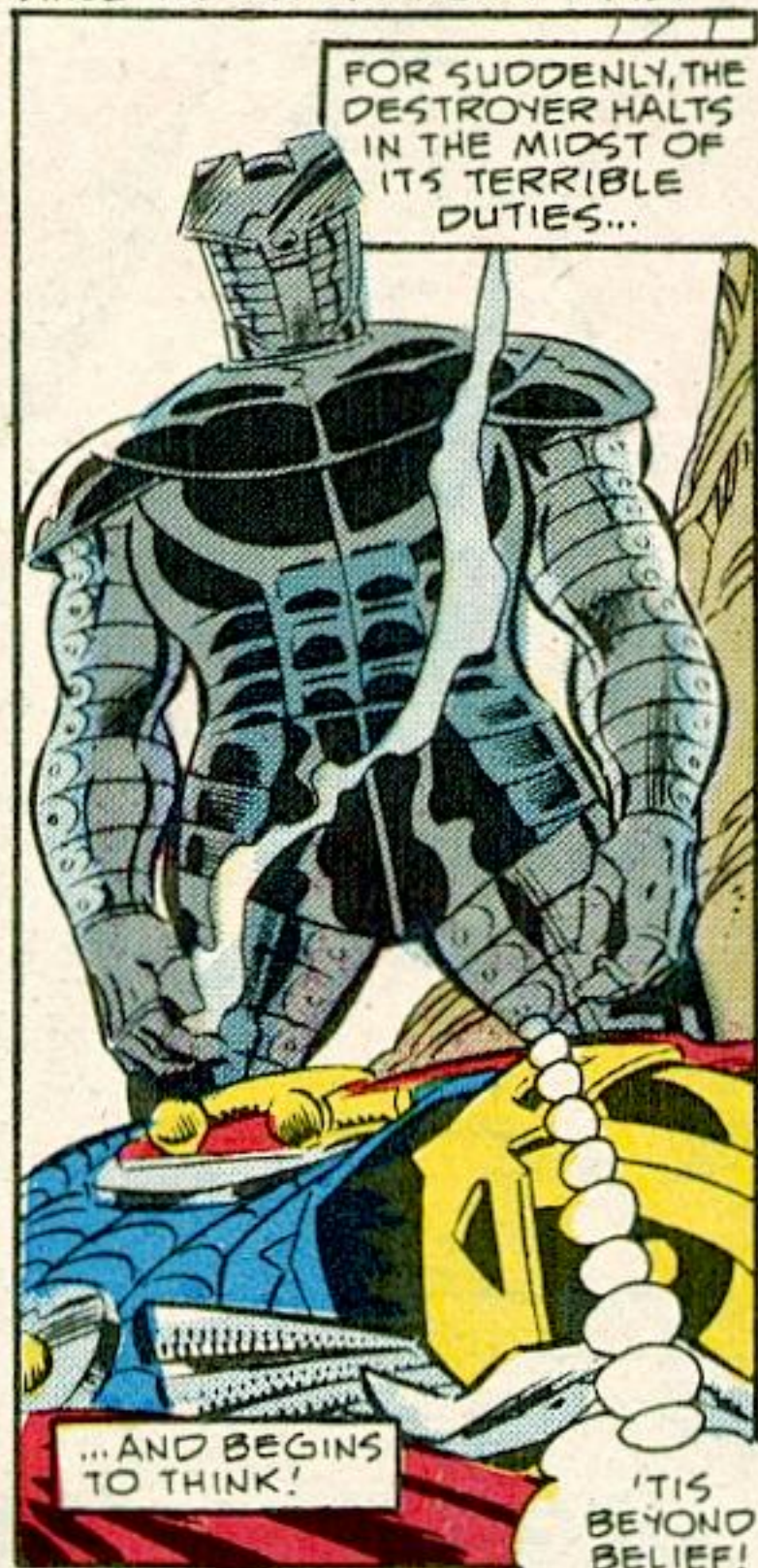
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA!



AND THE PRINCE OF EVIL DEPARTS.

SO IT IS THAT LOKI DOES NOT SEE WHAT NO LIVING BEING HAS SEEN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

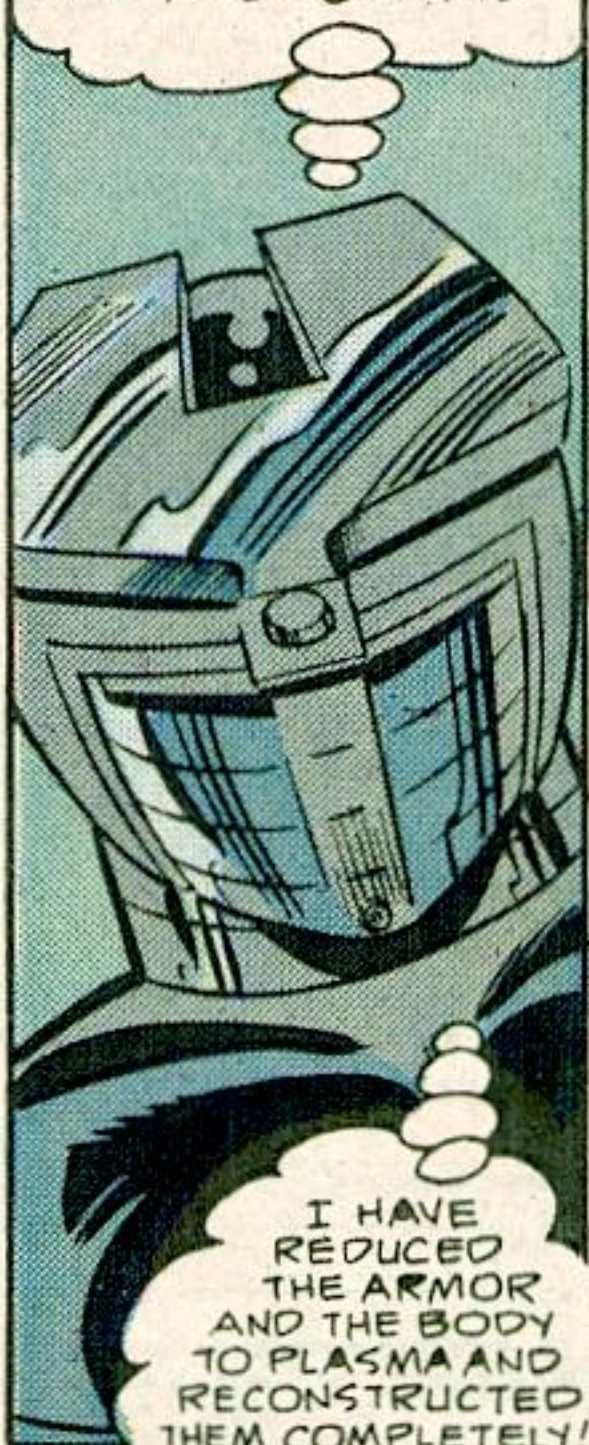
FOR SUDDENLY, THE DESTROYER HALTS IN THE MIDST OF ITS TERRIBLE DUTIES...



...AND BEGINS TO THINK!

'TIS BEYOND BELIEF!

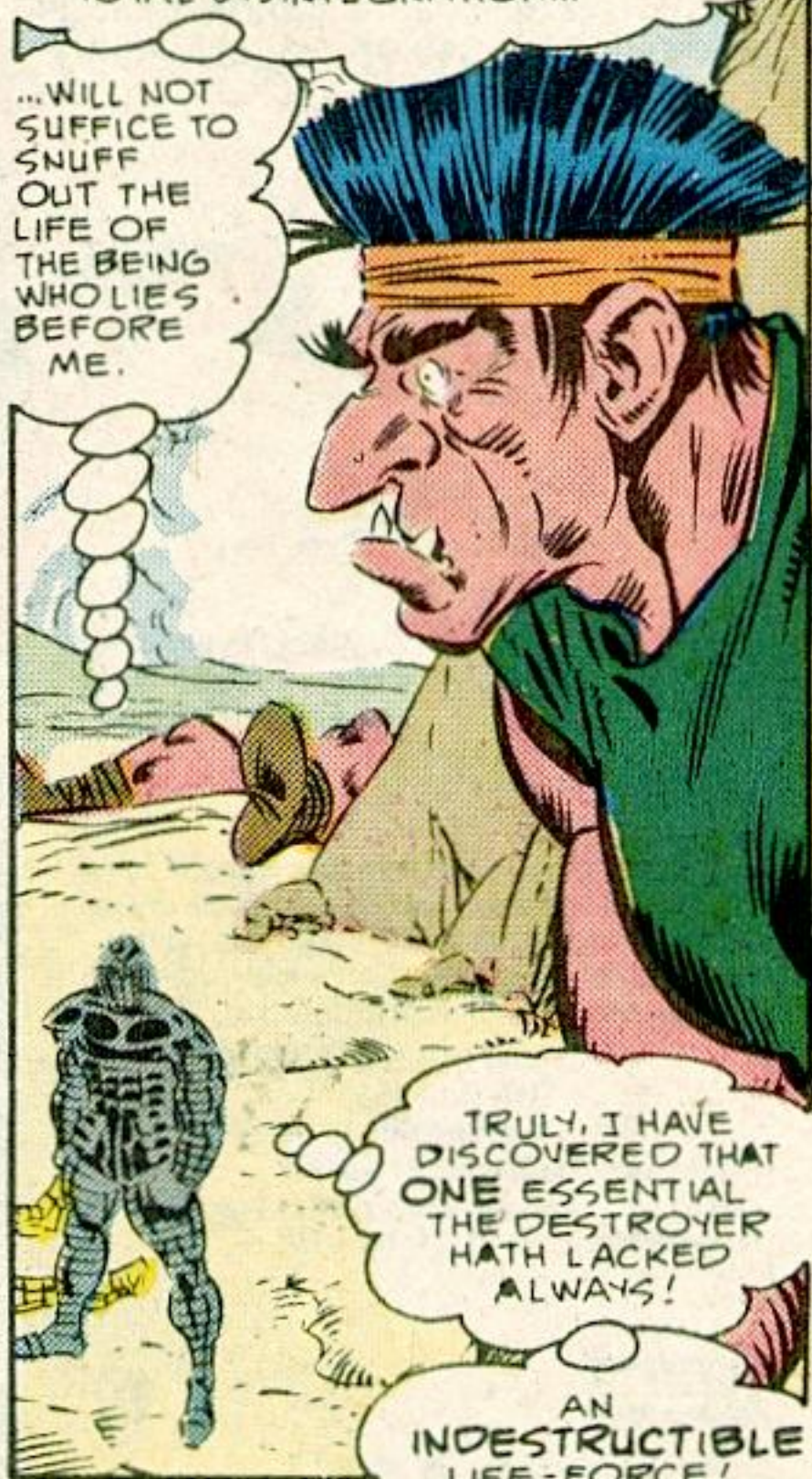
I HAVE SUBJECTED THIS BODY TO MOLECULAR DISRUPTORS, NUCLEAR RIPSAWS, AND ANTI-MATTER PARTICLE BEAMS.



I HAVE REDUCED THE ARMOR AND THE BODY TO PLASMA AND RECONSTRUCTED THEM COMPLETELY!

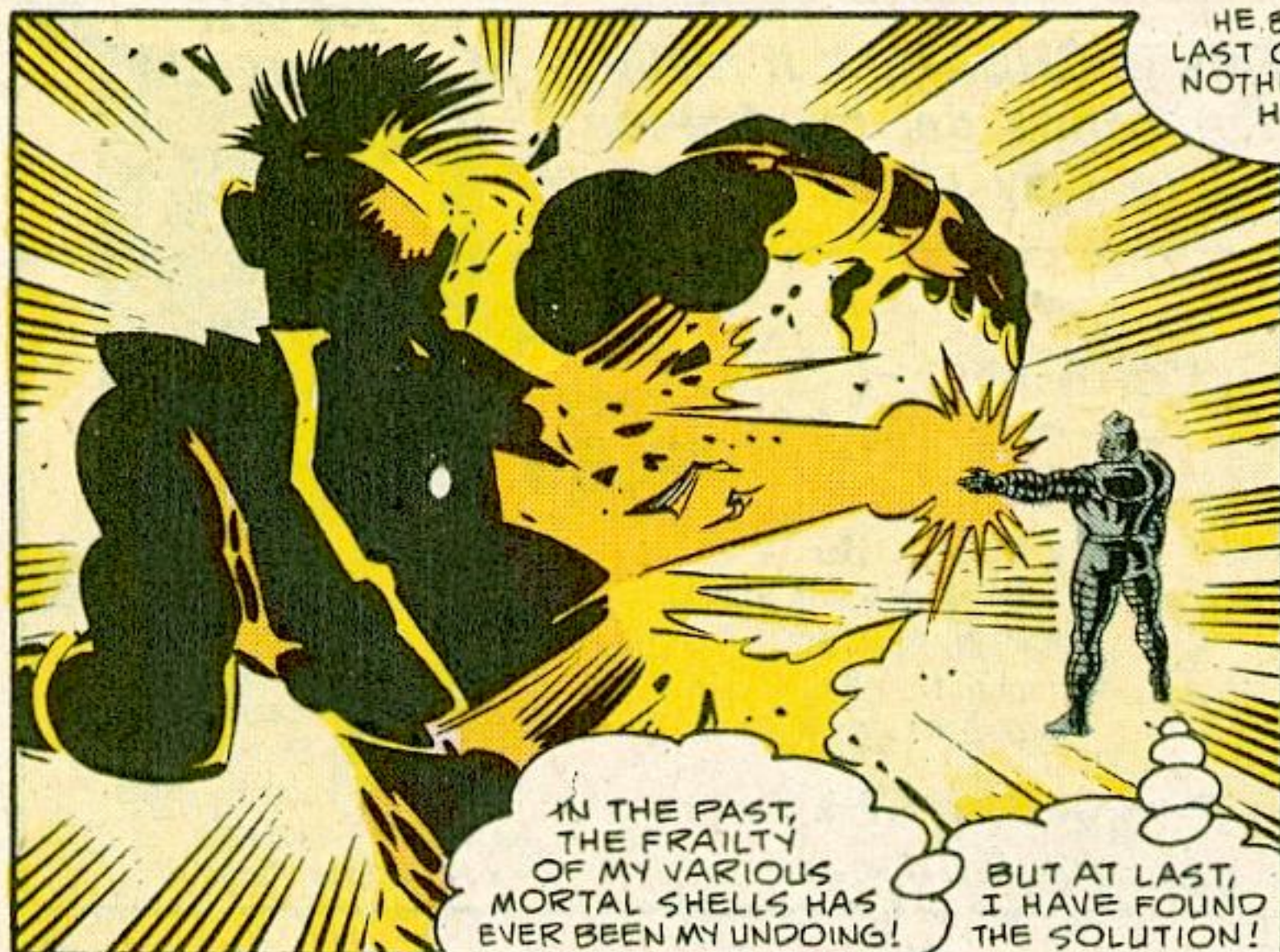
AND I CAN SENSE THAT EVEN MY ULTIMATE WEAPON, THE POWER OF TOTAL DISINTEGRATION...

...WILL NOT SUFFICE TO SNUFF OUT THE LIFE OF THE BEING WHO LIES BEFORE ME.



TRULY, I HAVE DISCOVERED THAT ONE ESSENTIAL THE DESTROYER HATH LACKED ALWAYS!

AN INDESTRUCTIBLE LIFE-FORCE!



HE BLEW THE
LAST GIANT AWAY!
NOTHING STOPS
HIM!

I DUNNO, BUT
I'LL BET MY LAST
RUBLE IT AIN'T
THE RUSSIANS!

AND I
GOTTA HUNCH
NOTHING
NUCLEAR WILL,
EITHER! WHAT
IS THAT
THING?

IN THE PAST,
THE FRAILTY
OF MY VARIOUS
MORTAL SHELLS HAS
EVER BEEN MY UNDOING!

BUT AT LAST,
I HAVE FOUND
THE SOLUTION!



WHAT
ABOUT
THOR? HE
STILL HASN'T
MOVED SINCE
WE GOT BACK!

AND
NOW THE
OTHER
GUY'S
NOT
MOV-
ING,
EITHER!

KEEP THOSE CAMERAS
GOING! WE MIGHT BE
RECORDING THE BEGIN-
NING OF THE END
RIGHT HERE!

STEP FORWARD,
WARRIOR, THAT I
MAY ABSORB
YOUR BEING
COMPLETELY!

AND, UNSEEN BY THE HIDDEN
MORTALS, BEYOND THE
WORLD OF THE FLESH, IN
THE MYSTIC REALM OF
THE SPIRIT...

AT LAST!
THE DAY OF
THE
DESTROYER
HAS COME!

THEN SHALL
WE BECOME ONE,
INDESTRUCTIBLE
BODY FUSED
FOREVER WITH
IMPERISHABLE SPIRIT...

...AND THE
DESTROYER
SHALL NEVER
AGAIN BEND HIS
KNEE TO ANY
LIVING THING!

AND
IF I
REFUSE
?



THEN YOU
WILL ONLY
CAUSE
YOURSELF
UNNECESSARY
ANGUISH!

KAEERRR WAAAN!!



NO LIVING BEING MAY REFUSE THE INVITATION OF THE DESTROYER!

YOU DO NOT SPEAK THE TRUTH, OH ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION! WE HAVE MET BEFORE, ONCE IN THIS VERY PLACE.

AND THEN AS NOW, I WAS OBLIGED TO REJECT YOUR HANDSOME OFFER!



WHO--? I HAVE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE!

LOOK AGAIN, MY ARMORED FRIEND!

UNLIKE DESTROYERS, WE LIVING CREATURES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO CHANGE OUR CLOTHES, EVEN GROW BEARDS WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME!



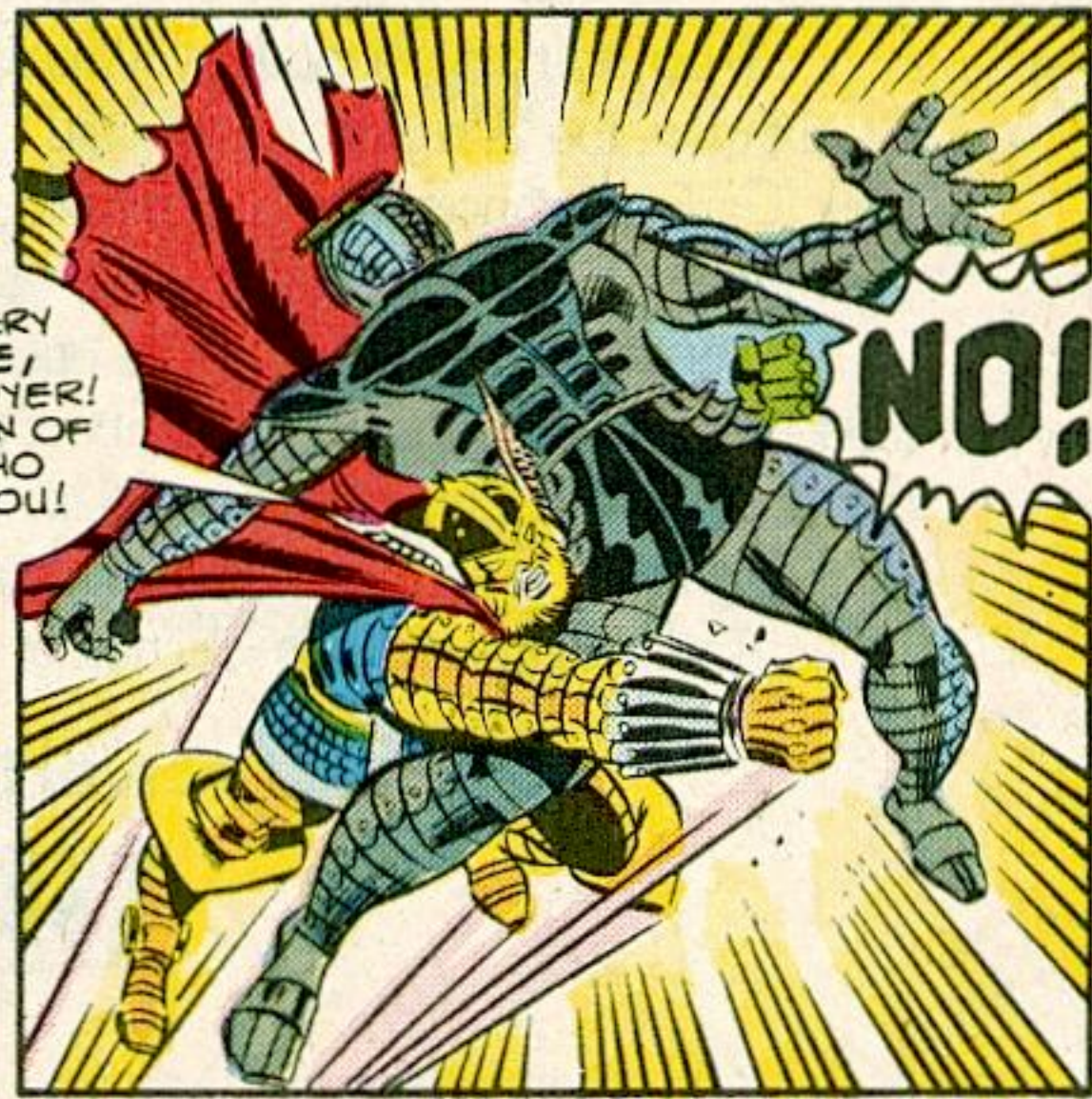
BUT YOU HAVE EARNED MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE, DESTROYER!

NEVER BEFORE HAS THE POWER TO FIGHT, TO DANCE, TO REVEL IN THE SHEER JOY OF MOVEMENT BEEN SO PRECIOUS TO THOR AS IT IS NOW!



THE VERY SAME, DESTROYER! THE SON OF HIM WHO MADE YOU!

THOR??
NO!!



NO!

AND THOUGH HE
KNEW IT NOT, MY
FATHER THEREBY
DELIVERED UNTO
ME THE MEANS
OF MY SALVA-
TION!

OR MAYHAP
HE DID
KNOW.

FOR WHO
CAN TRULY
FATHOM THE
LIMITS OF WISE
ODIN'S WISDOM?

NO!

COME, MY
FRIEND!

THERE
CAN BE NO
GOING
BACK
NOW!

NO!!

WE MUST RETURN
TO THE REAL
WORLD WHERE
LIES MY BROKEN
BODY AND YOUR
UNMOVING
SHELL!

AND ONLY
ONE OF US
WILL EMERGE
FROM THIS
MYSTIC
REALM
ALIVE!

TO THE
STRONGEST
BELONGS THE
VICTORY!

NO!!!!



IT'S BEEN WELL OVER A HALF AN HOUR NOW, SINCE THE METAL ROBOT, OR WHATEVER IT IS, DESTROYED THE GIANT.

SINCE THAT TIME, HE'S BEEN STANDING AT THOR'S SIDE, COMPLETELY MOTIONLESS.

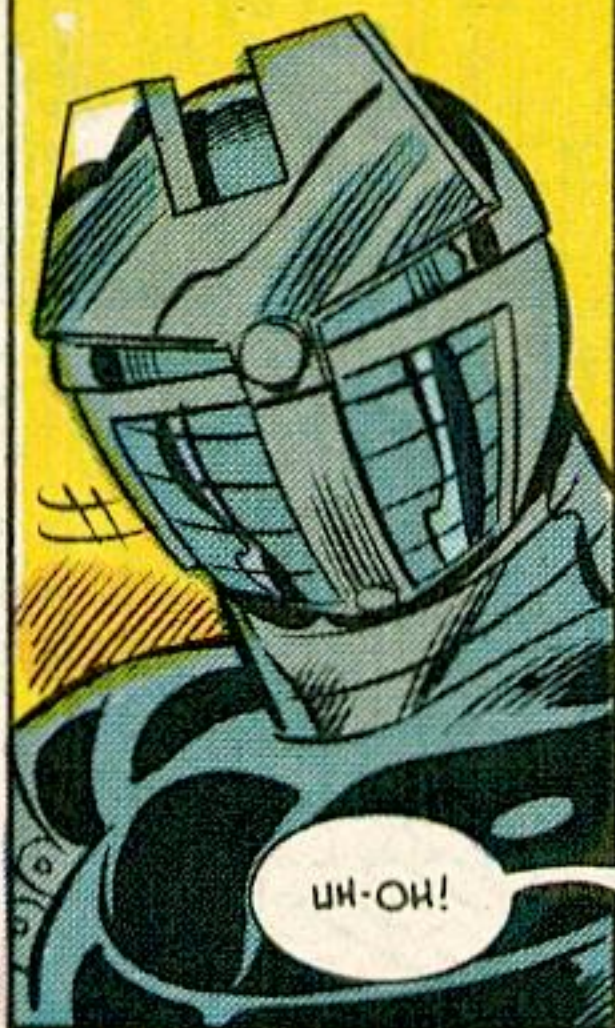
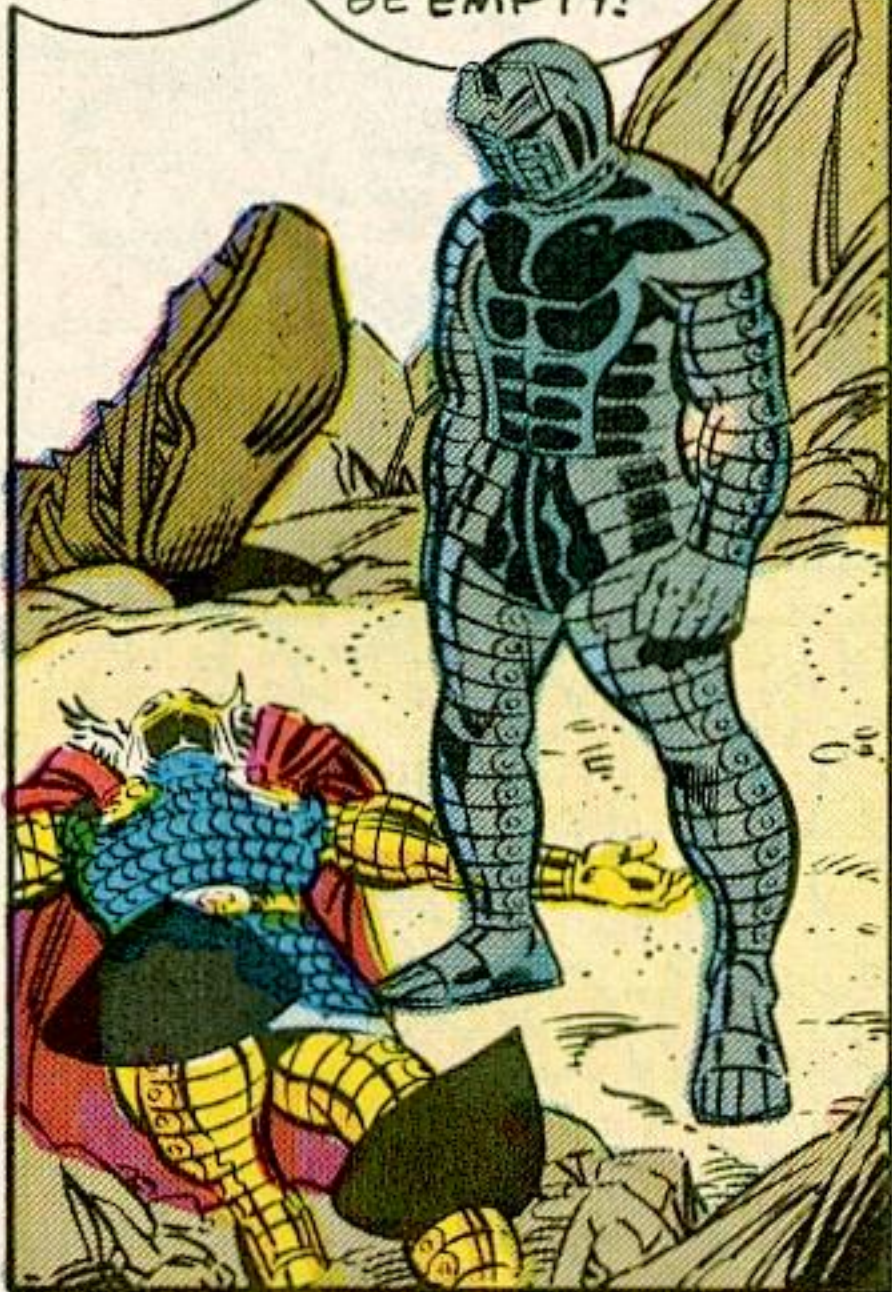
AND THOR HIMSELF-- WELL, WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE HE'S REALLY THERE!

THE ARMOR HE WAS WEARING BACK IN NEW YORK SEEMS TO BE EMPTY!

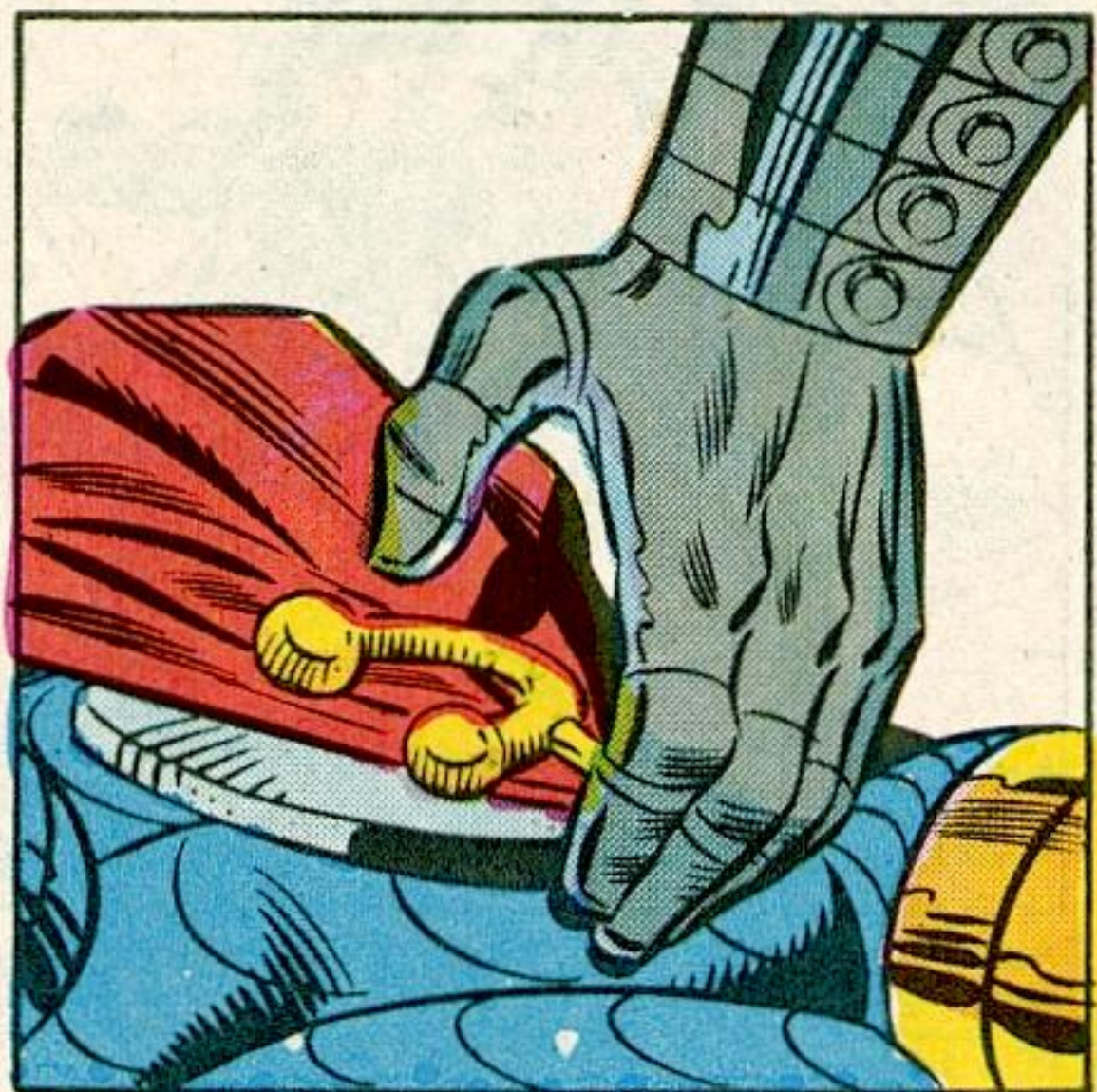
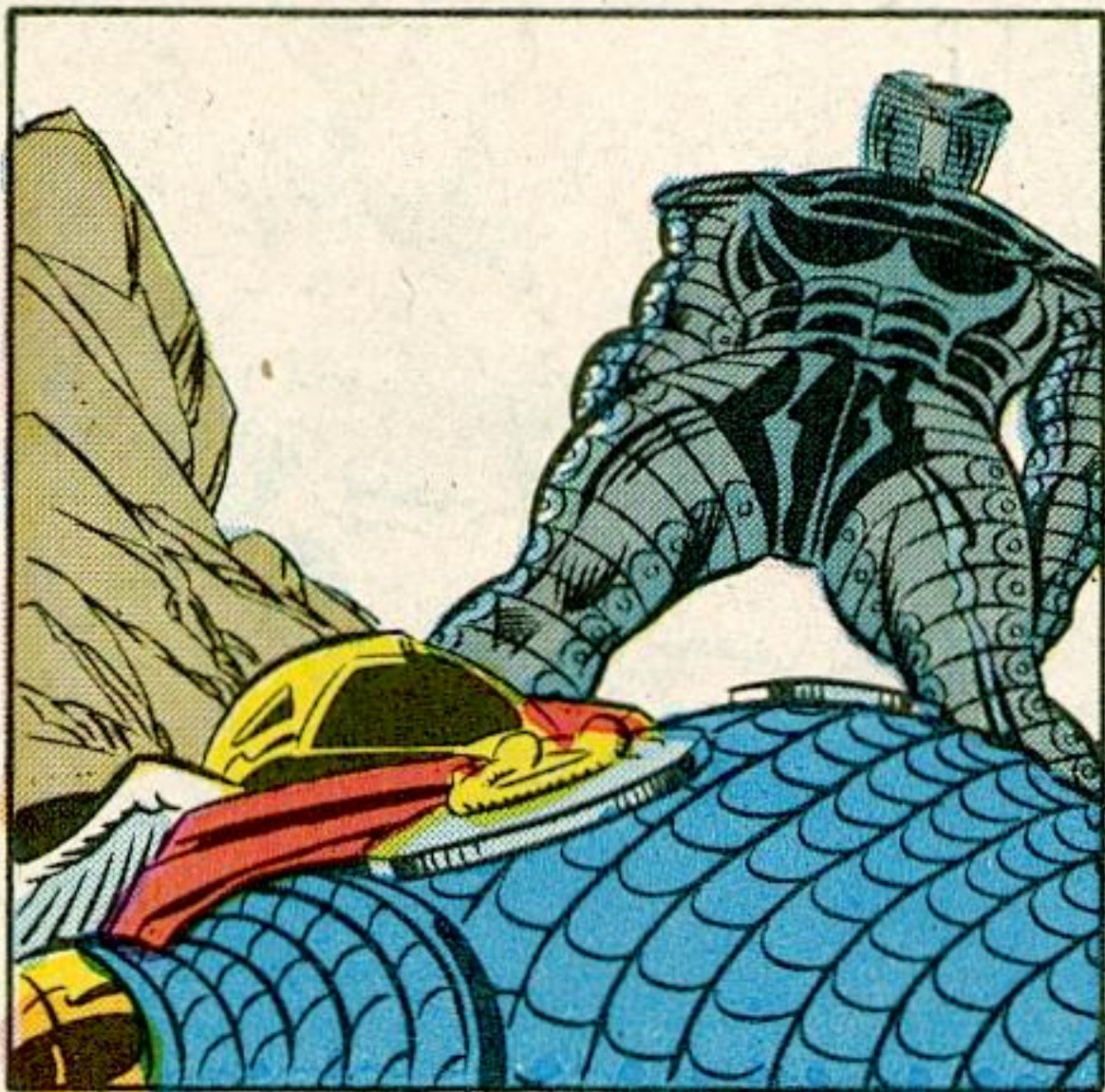
BUT I KNOW ONE THING!

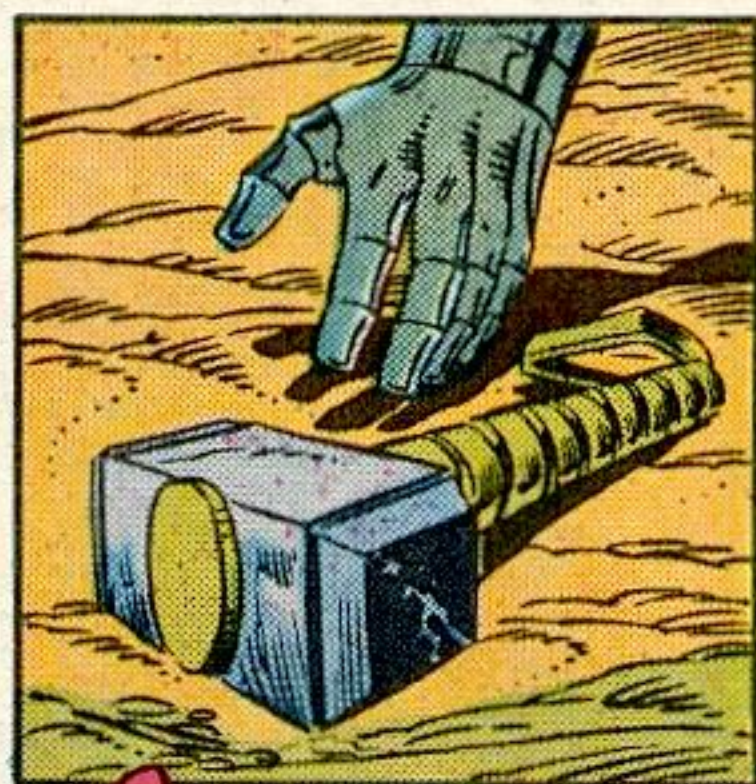
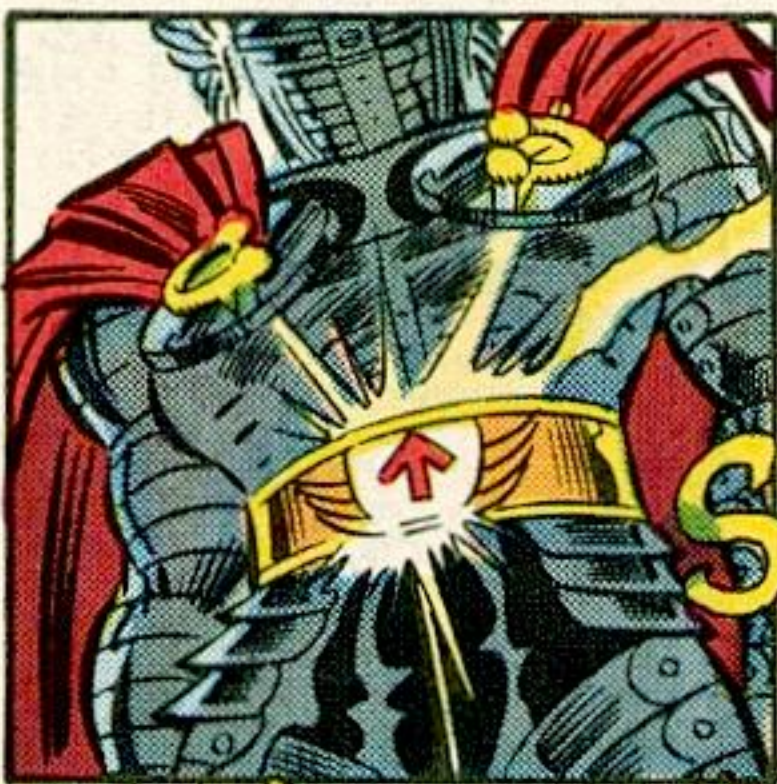
IF THAT ROBOT STARTS TO MOVE AGAIN, I DON'T THINK EVEN THE ARMED FORCES ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO STOP IT!

HEAD FOR THE HILLS, FAST!

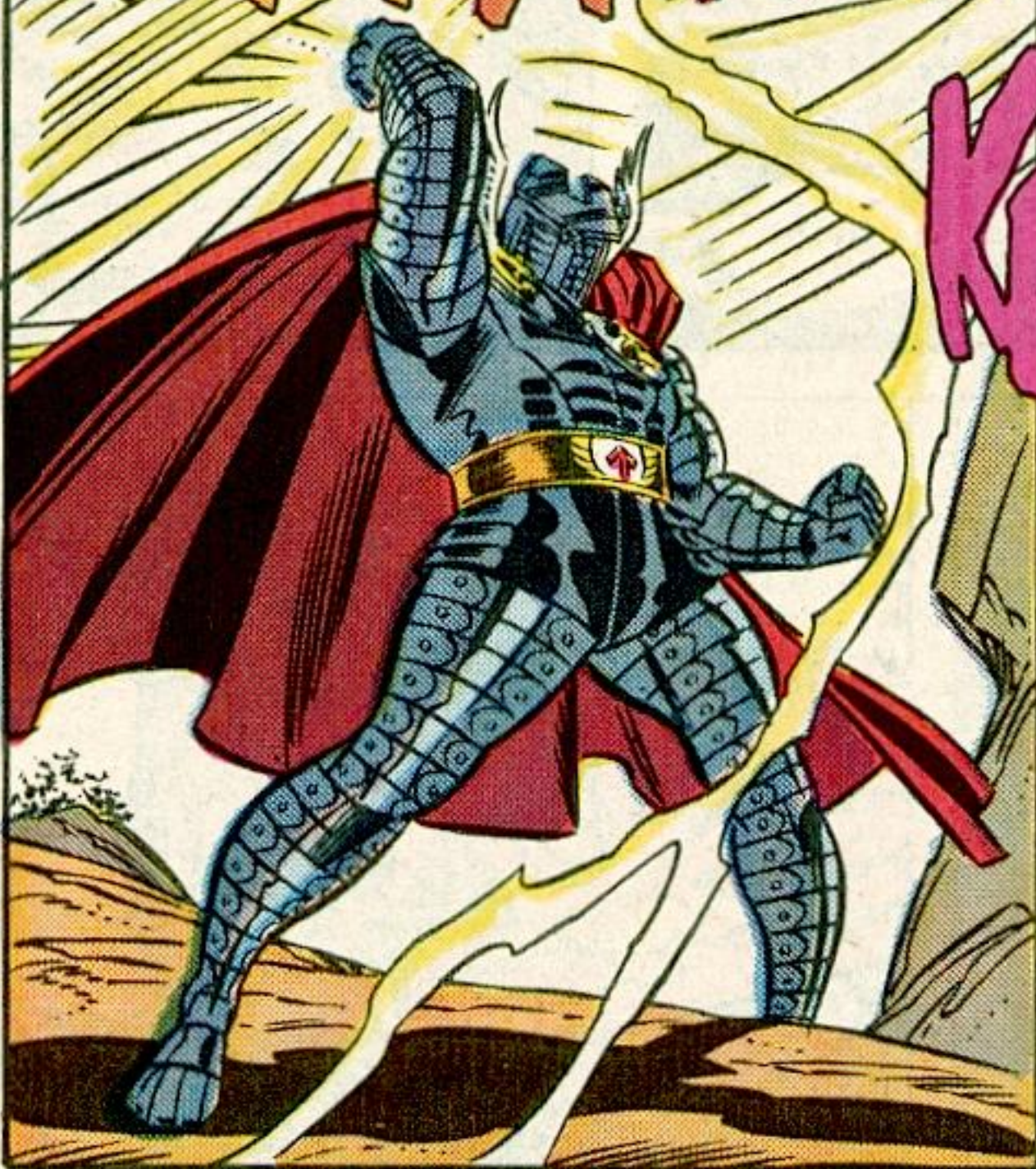


UH-OH!





WHHRRRAAMMMMMMM! KRABOOM!



NEXT
ISSUE: **A JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY!**

A SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION FOR THOR'S 300TH ISSUE.
SO POLISH UP YOUR HAMMERS, BOYS AND GIRLS,
AND GET SET! THIS IS THE ISSUE THOR'S BEEN
DYING FOR.