

**MARVEL**



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# the mighty **THOR**

STRIPPED OF HIS  
SACRED HAMMER,  
THE THUNDER GOD  
MUST BATTLE

**GROG  
THE GOD  
CRUSHER!**



WHEN THE **GODS** MAKE **WAR!**

FRENZ BREEDING

# WHEN THE GODS MAKE WAR

**TOM DEFALCO**  
WRITER

**RON FRENZ**  
PENCILS

**BREEDING+HECK**  
INKS

**JACK MORELLI**  
LETTERS

**MAX SCHEELE**  
COLORS

**RALPH MACCHIO**  
EDITOR

THE BLAST FROM THE POWER LANCE RIPS THROUGH HIS BODY-- SEARING HIM TO THE VERY DEPTHS OF HIS SOUL!

THE PAIN IS INCREDIBLE-- BUT HE WILL NOT GIVE HIS TORMENTORS THE PLEASURE OF HEARING HIM SCREAM!

THOUGH SHORN OF HIS GODLY POWERS AND TORTURED BEYOND ENDURANCE, HE WILL NOT BREAK! HE WILL NOT SURRENDER TO DESPAIR!

SOMEHOW, HE WILL LIVE TO DEFEAT HIS ENEMIES-- AND SWEEP THEM AWAY IN THE STORM OF HIS RIGHTEOUS RAGE!

HE IS THOR! SON OF ODIN, PRINCE OF ASGARD! HE CAN DO NO LESS!!

NEVER BEFORE HAS **GROG THE GOD-CRUSHER** BEHELD SUCH INSUFFERABLE **ARROGANCE!** SUCH **COLOSSAL GALL!**

ONLY A **PRESUMPTUOUS FOOL** OR A **TOTAL MADMAN** WOULD HAVE DARED TO LEAD A SMALL BAND OF WARRIORS INTO THE **DIMENSION OF DEATH--**

--IN THE VAIN, **INSANE HOPE** OF DEFEATING MY **MASTER SETH!**

**PA-T-HOOM**



EVEN AS YOU **ROT** HERE--DEEP WITHIN THE **DANK DUNGEONS** OF THE **BLACK PYRAMID--** THE **SERPENT GOD OF DEATH** IS **INVADING** YOUR **BELOVED ASGARD--** AND **PUTTING** YOUR **PEOPLE** TO THE **SWORD!**



**ADMIT IT, THUNDER GOD!** YOUR **CAUSE** IS **HOPELESS!**

NOT ONLY HAS **GROG BESTED** YOU IN **PHYSICAL COMBAT--** BUT I HAVE ALSO **CRUSHED** YOUR **IMMORTAL SPIRIT--** BY **STRIPPING** YOU OF YOUR **SACRED URU HAMMER!**



**GROG!** I BRING WORD FROM **LORD SETH!**

YOUR PRESENCE IS NEEDED ELSEWHERE!

ENJOY THIS MOMENTARY RESPIRE, THUNDERER! GROG SHALL RETURN-- TO YOUR EVERLASTING SORROW!

WOW! THAT GUY REALLY HAS IT IN FOR THOR!

AYE, EARTH-LORD, BUT THE ODINSON WILL ENDURE!

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US? WE'RE NOT GODS! WE DON'T BELONG HERE!

WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE JOINED THIS STUPID QUEST!

HAVE FAITH, SKYHAWK! DO NOT FALL INTO THE BLACK HOLE OF DESPAIR!

WHILST LIFE REMAINS, HOPE EXISTS!

UGNN!!

WELL SAID, MY FRIEND!

ARE YOU ASGARDIANS CRAZY??!

YOU'LL NEVER GET FREE! NEVER SHATTER THOSE CHAINS!!

WHY EVEN TRY?!

BEFORE HE BECAME SKYHAWK, WINSTON MANCHESTER WAS A HIGH-POWERED BUSINESS EXECUTIVE! A COLD, PRAGMATIC MAN WHO WAS TRAINED TO MAKE INSTANTANEOUS DECISIONS BASED ON AVAILABLE DATA!

HE HASN'T CHANGED...

INSTEAD OF ANSWERING, HOGUN THE GRIM CONTINUES HIS SILENT STRUGGLE...

AND, WITHOUT A WORD, EARTH-LORD AND THE BLACK KNIGHT JOIN HIM!

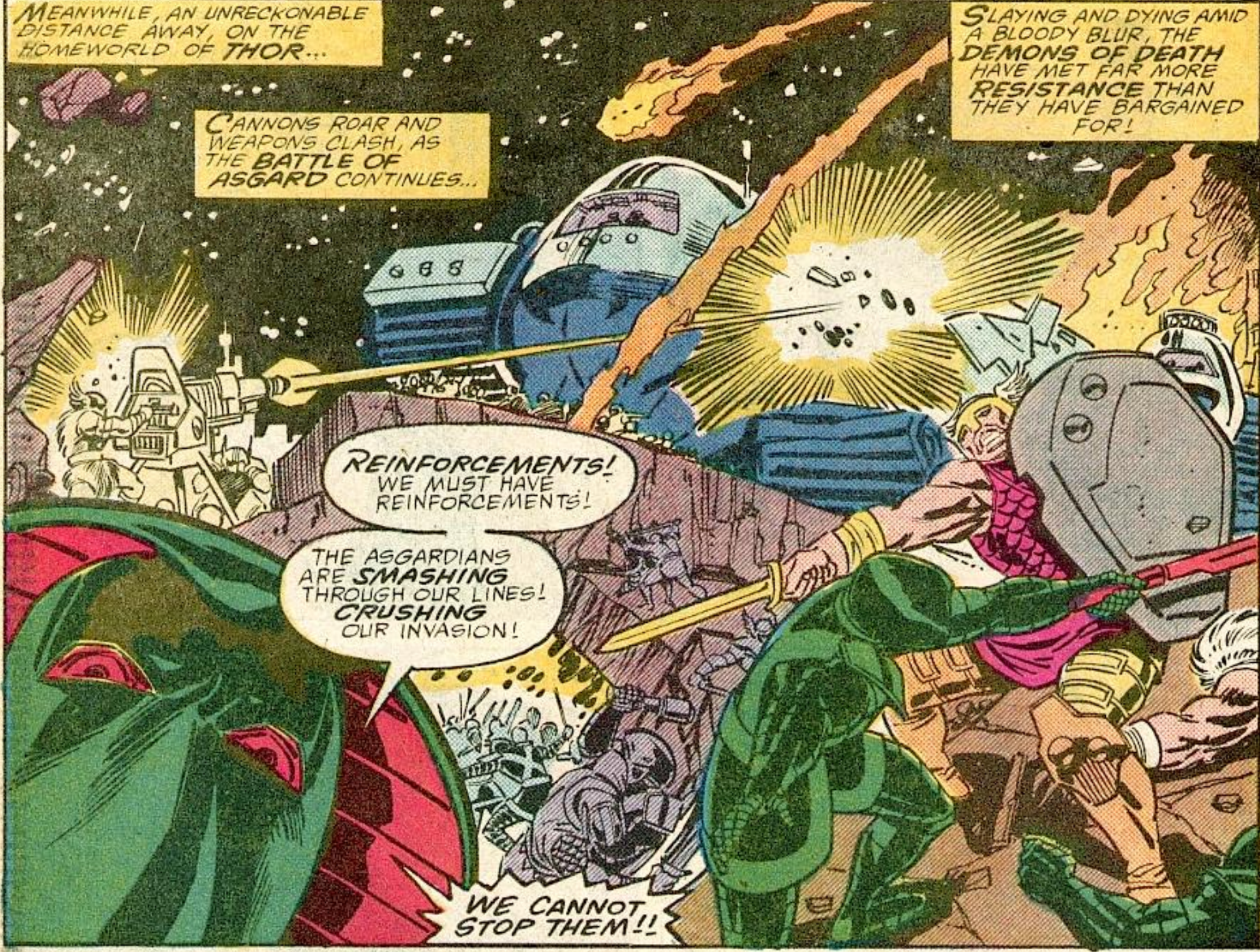
YEAH, RIGHT...

WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE!

MEANWHILE, AN UNRECKONABLE DISTANCE AWAY, ON THE HOMEWORLD OF THOR...

CANNONS ROAR AND WEAPONS CLASH, AS THE BATTLE OF ASGARD CONTINUES...

SLAYING AND DYING AMID A BLOODY BLUR, THE DEMONS OF DEATH HAVE MET FAR MORE RESISTANCE THAN THEY HAVE BARGAINED FOR!



REINFORCEMENTS! WE MUST HAVE REINFORCEMENTS!

THE ASGARDIANS ARE SMASHING THROUGH OUR LINES! CRUSHING OUR INVASION!

WE CANNOT STOP THEM!!

THIS IS MADNESS MY LORD! OUR FOES FIGHT LIKE GODS POSSESSED -- AS IF THE SALVATION OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF RESTED WITH THEM!

YOU SURPRISE ME, GENERAL! HAVE YOU NO FAITH -- NO CONFIDENCE -- IN MY ABILITY TO LEAD YOU TO VICTORY?

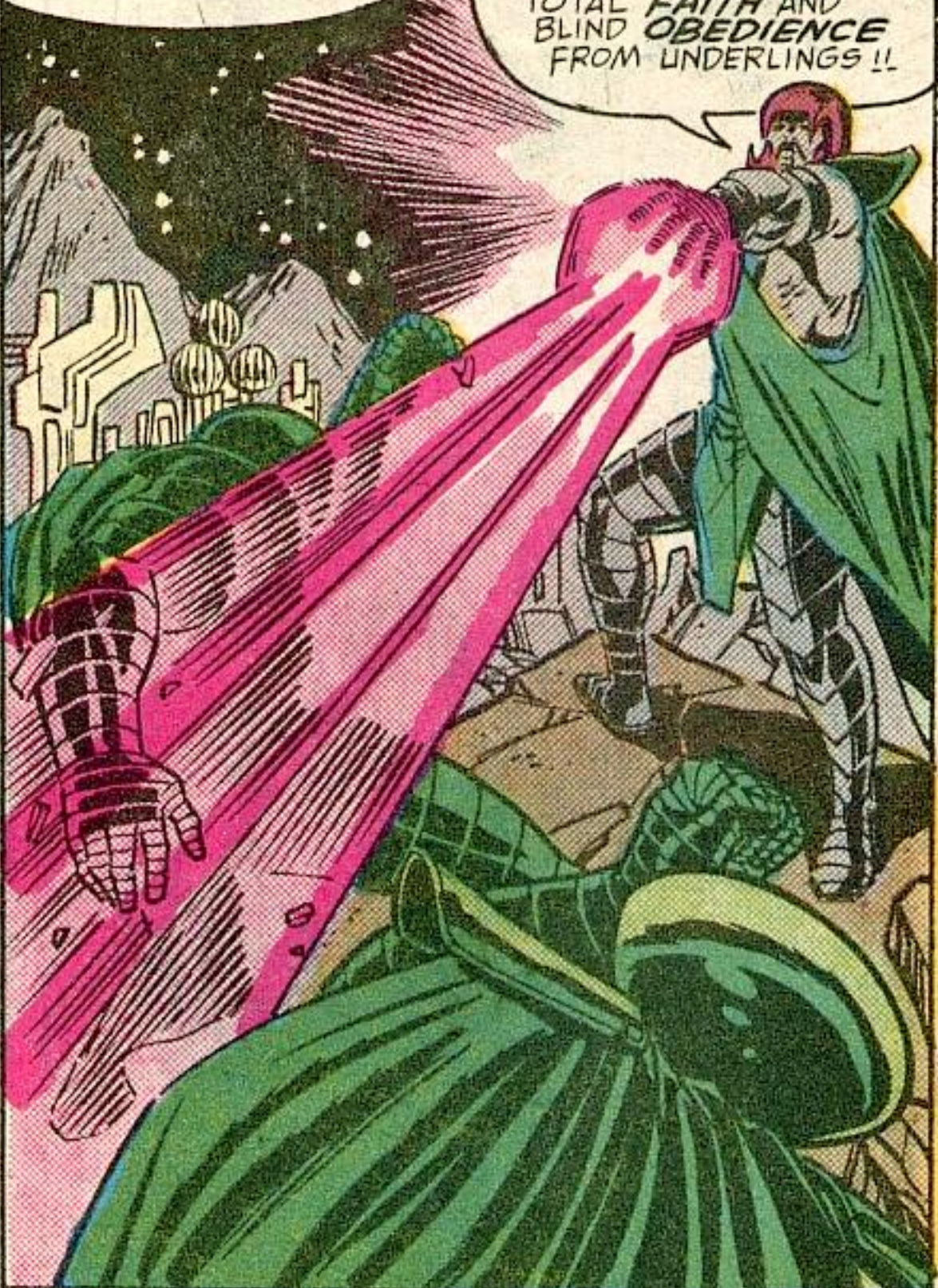
WE MUST RETREAT! WE MUST!!



YES, MASTER! BUT--

SILENCE! THERE IS ONLY ONE PENALTY FOR THOSE WHO WOULD DOUBT ME!!

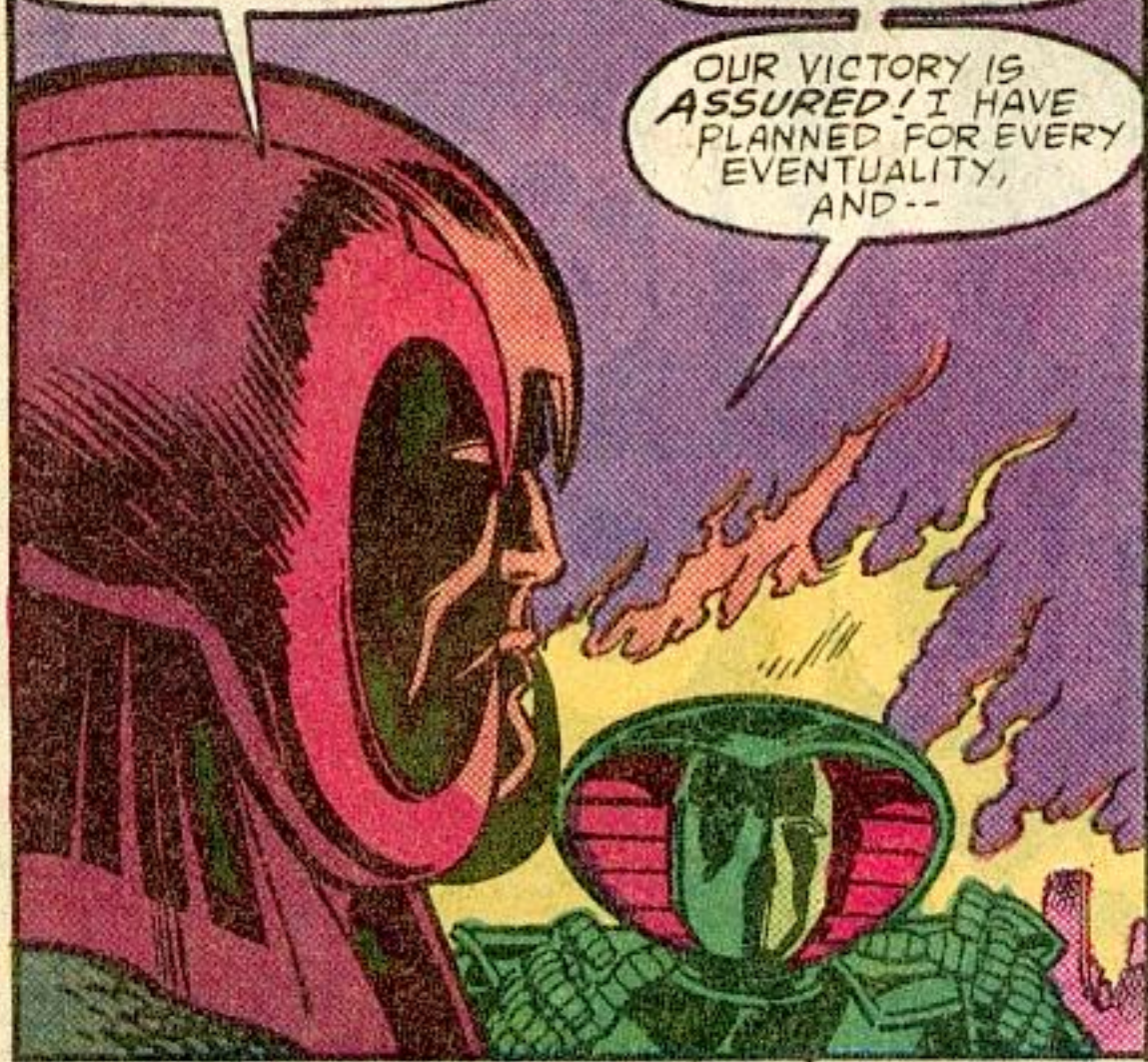
I AM SETH, THE SERPENT GOD OF DEATH -- I DEMAND COMPLETE COMMITMENT, TOTAL FAITH AND BLIND OBEDIENCE FROM UNDERLINGS!!



ORDER OUR GROUND TROOPS TO **ADVANCE!**

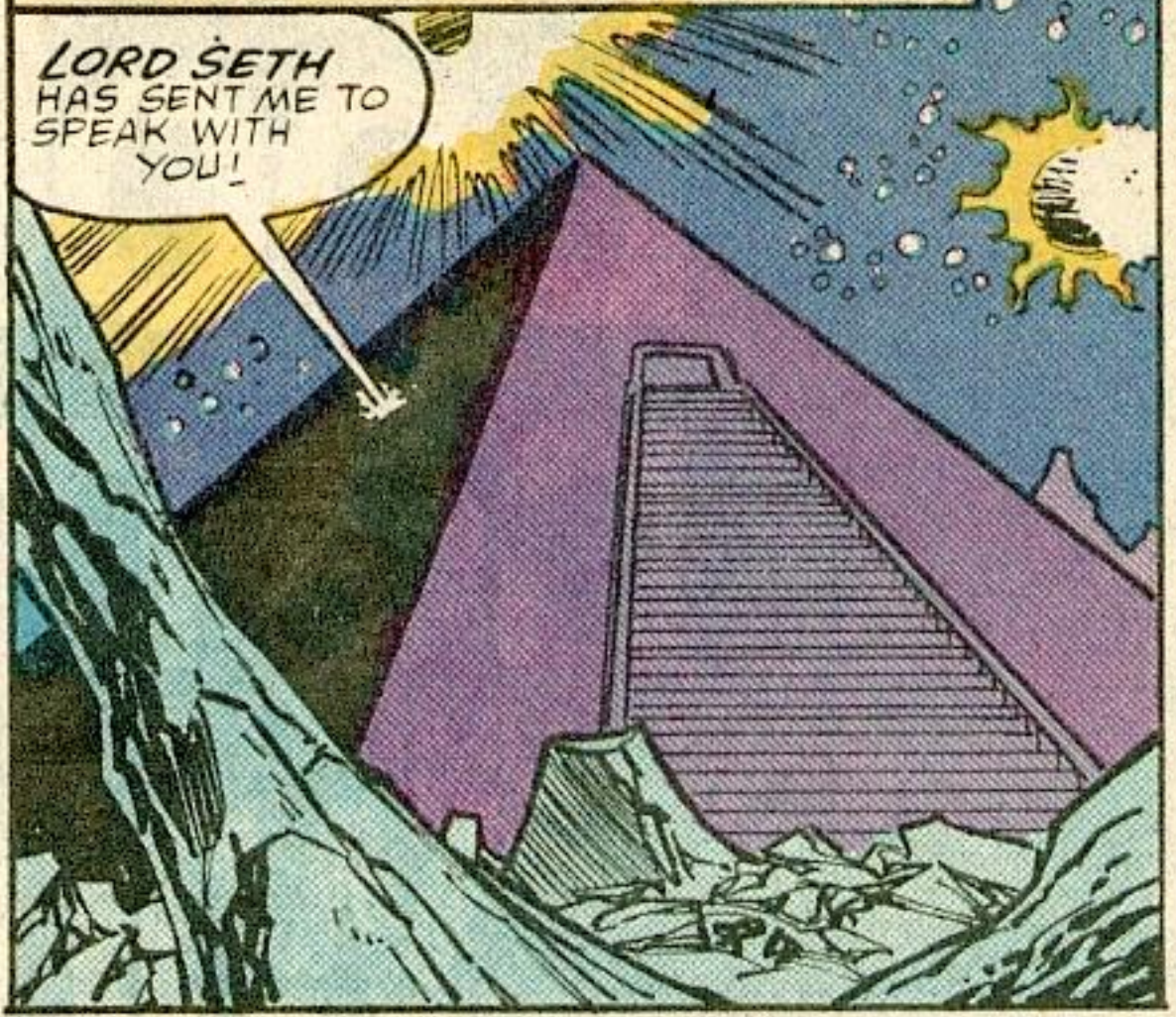
LET **NO MAN** TAKE A BACKWARD STEP!

OUR VICTORY IS **ASSURED!** I HAVE PLANNED FOR EVERY EVENTUALITY, AND--



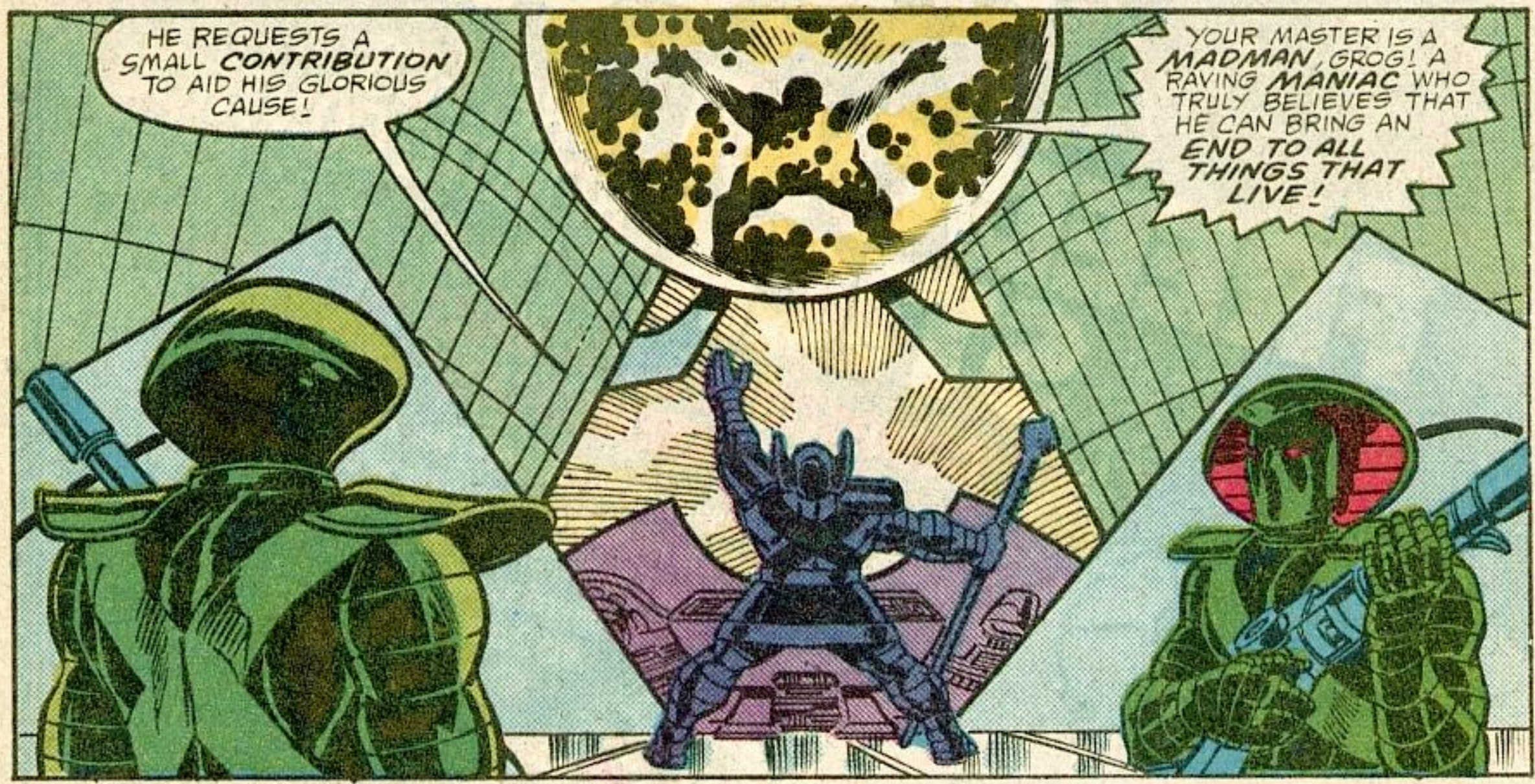
"--I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN THE NECESSARY **COMMANDS** WHICH WILL GUARANTEE THE **TOTAL DESTRUCTION** OF ASGARD!"

**LORD SETH** HAS SENT ME TO SPEAK WITH YOU!



HE REQUESTS A **SMALL CONTRIBUTION** TO AID HIS GLORIOUS CAUSE!

YOUR MASTER IS A **MADMAN, Grog!** A RAVING **MANIAC** WHO TRULY BELIEVES THAT HE CAN BRING AN **END TO ALL THINGS THAT LIVE!**



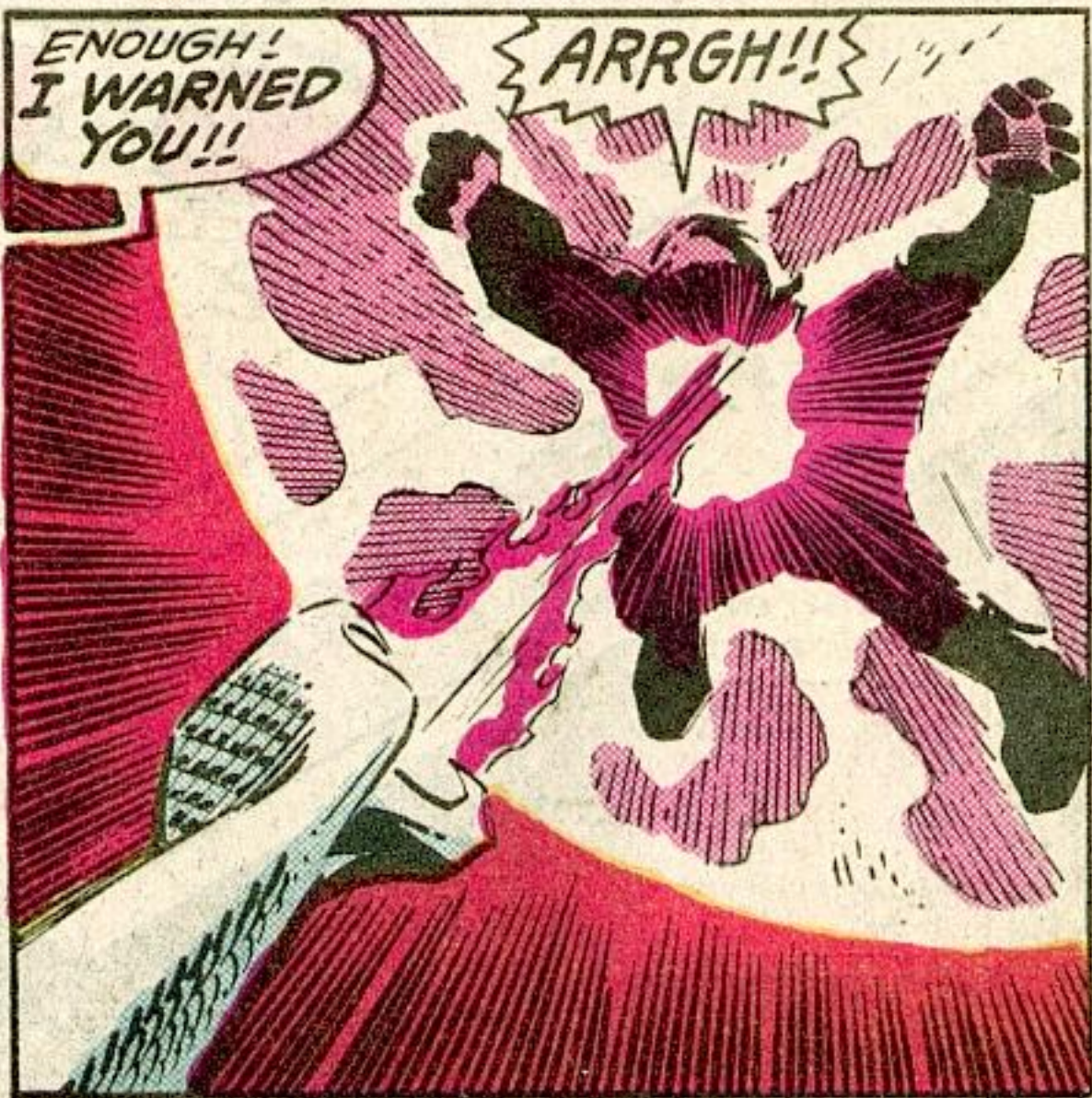
**SILENCE!** DO NOT PROFANE MY EARS WITH SUCH WORDS!



TELL SETH THAT HE IS DESTINED TO LIE DOWN WITH **YAKS** AND BE RAVAGED BY **SWINE!**

**ENOUGH!** I WARNED YOU!!

**ARRGH!!**



AND, EVEN AS GROG CONTINUES TO TORTURE HIS HELPLESS PRISONER...



AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, BACK ON ASGARD, THE BATTLE TAKES A STARTLING TURN FOR THE WORSE!

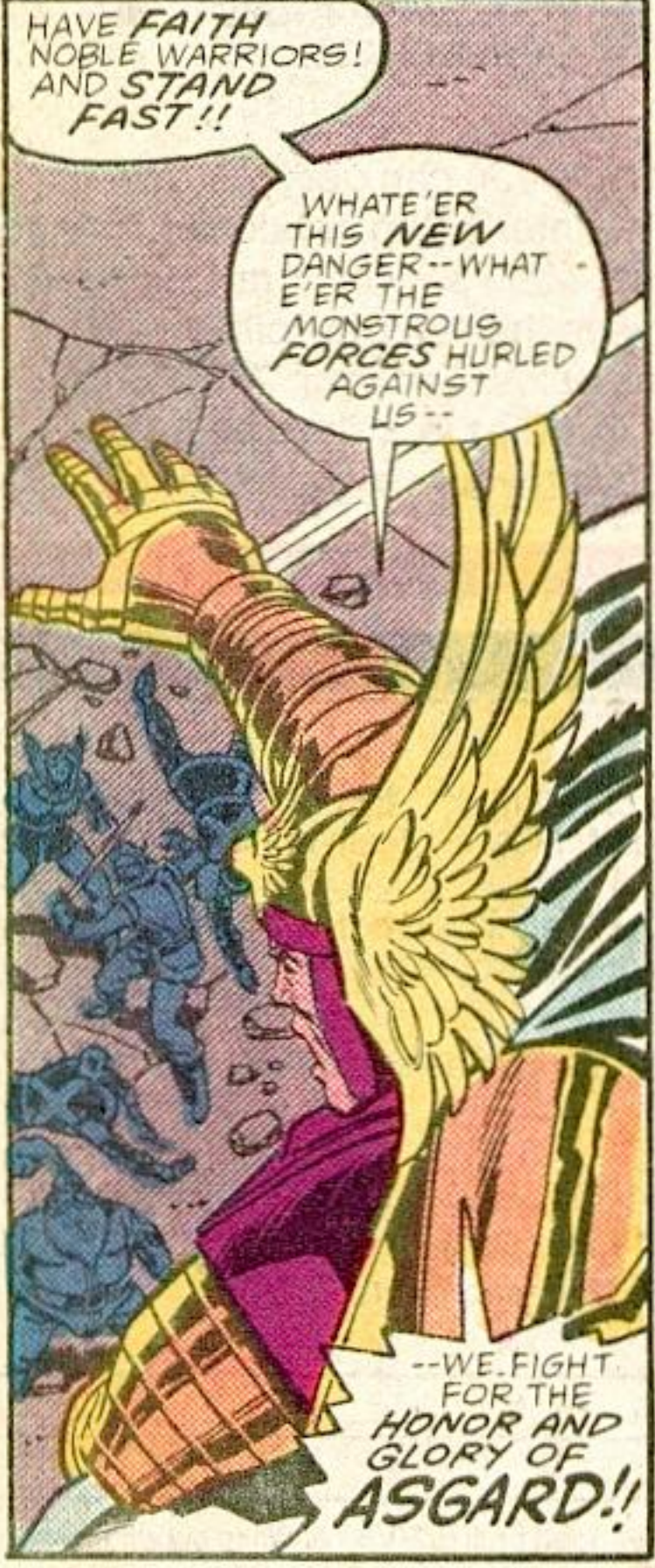
OD'S BLOOD!  
OUR ARTILLERY HAS  
BEGUN TO MISFIRE!  
BUT WHY??  
WHY??

SIMILAR QUESTIONS ARE RAISED ACROSS THE ENTIRE BATTLEFIELD AS SWORDS HONED IN THE DEFENSE OF THE GOLDEN REALM--



--AND WAR SHIELDS CONSTRUCTED OF REINFORCED ASGARDIAN STEEL START TO SHATTER WITHOUT WARNING!!

T'WOULD SEEM THE FATES THEMSELVES HAVE TURNED AGAINST US!!



HAVE FAITH NOBLE WARRIORS! AND STAND FAST!!

WHATE'ER THIS NEW DANGER--WHAT E'ER THE MONSTROUS FORCES HURLED AGAINST US--

--WE FIGHT FOR THE HONOR AND GLORY OF ASGARD!!



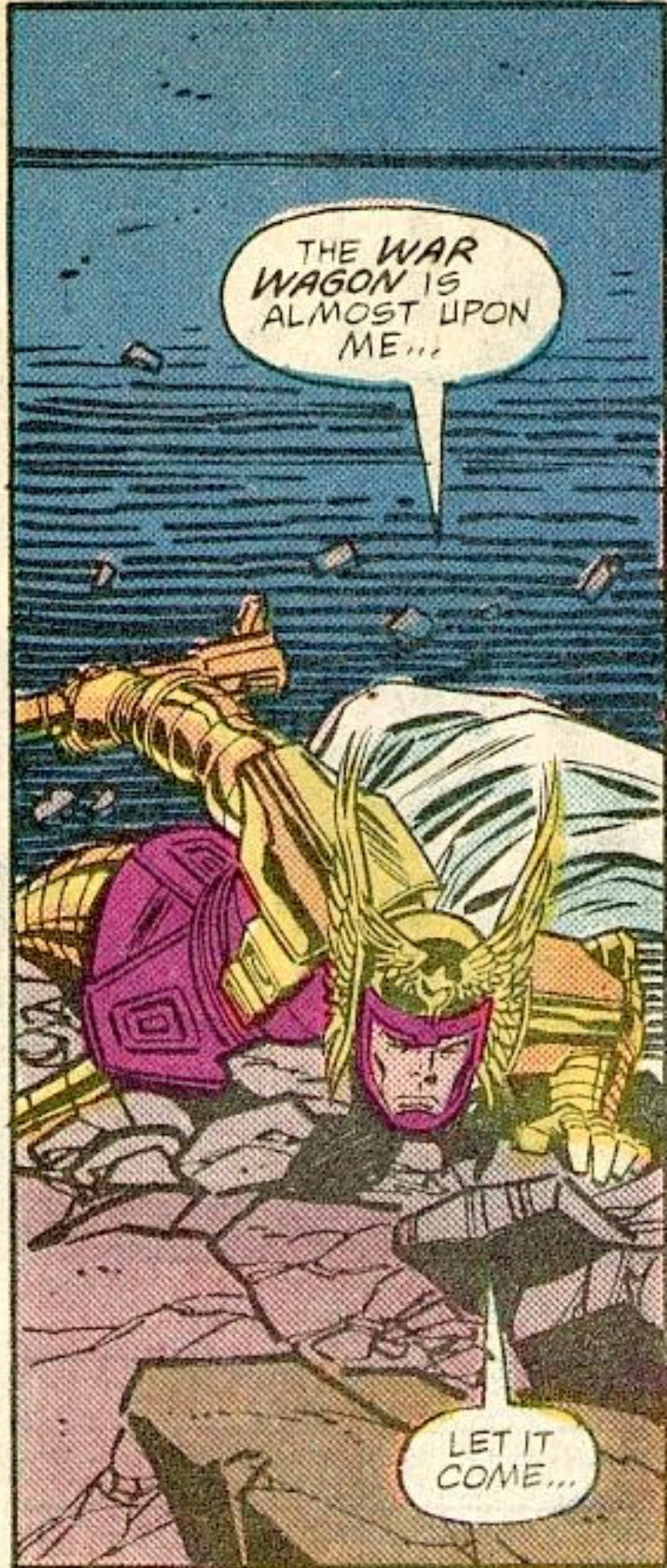
BUT, EVEN AS BALDER THE BRAVE SHOUTS WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO HIS FAITHFUL TROOPS--

BALDER!!



OUR KING HAS BEEN STRUCK DOWN!

LOOK! HE FALLS IN THE PATH OF THAT GIANT WAR MACHINE!



THE WAR WAGON IS ALMOST UPON ME...

LET IT COME...



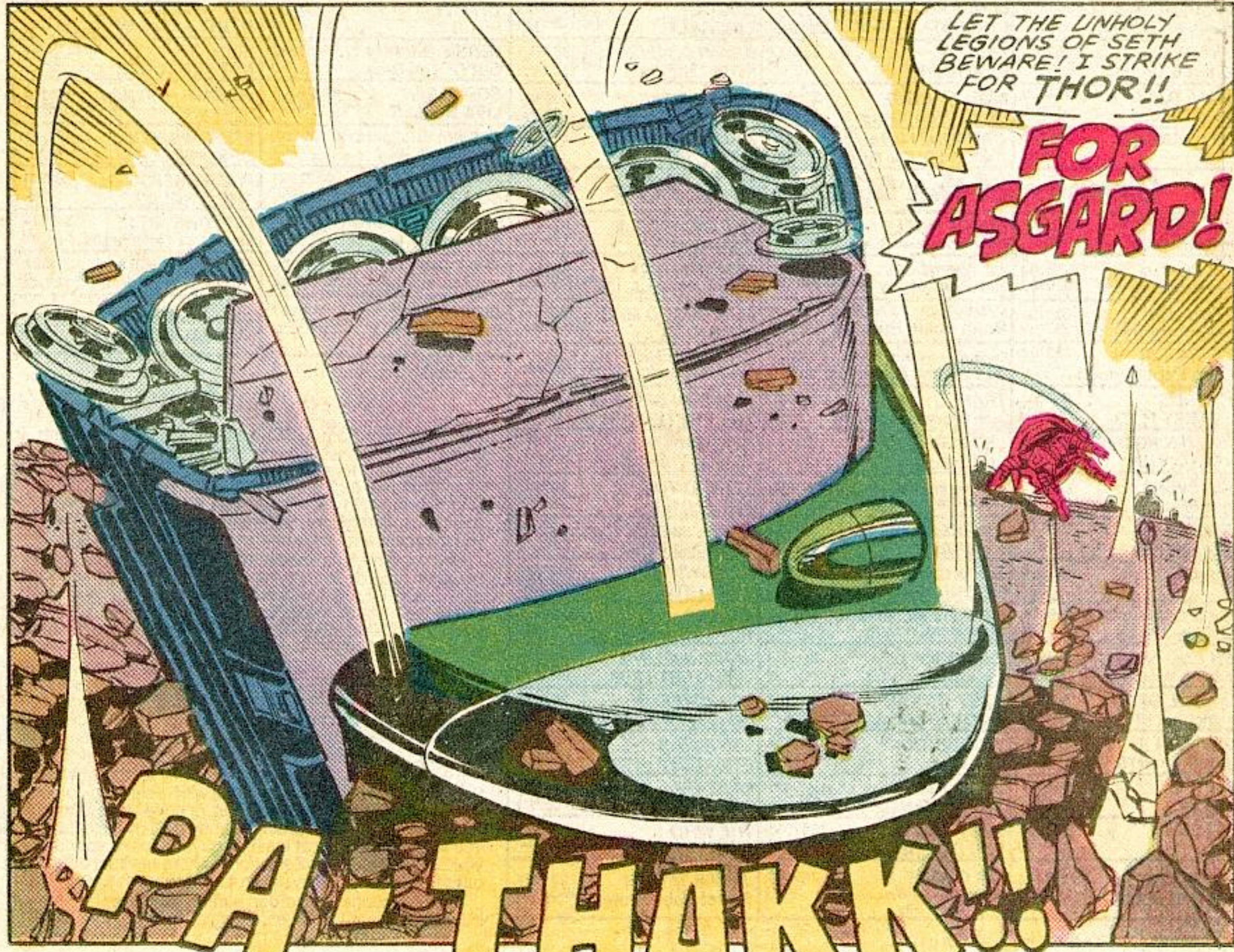
LET IT COME!!

I FEAR IT NOT!!



I PRESENTLY POSSESS THE POWER OF THOR -- POWER WHICH I SIPHONED FROM THE THUNDER GOD HIMSELF -- SO THAT I COULD BETTER PROTECT THE GOLDEN REALM!

I MUST NOW PROVE MYSELF WORTHY OF THIS POWER -- WORTHY OF THE INCREDIBLE RESPONSIBILITY THAT HAS BEEN THRUST UPON ME!



LET THE UNHOLY LEGIONS OF SETH BEWARE! I STRIKE FOR THOR!!

**FOR ASGARD!**

**PA-TTHAKK!!!**





**HURRY!** WE MUST FORM A RING OF STEEL AROUND OUR BRAVE RULER!!

LET ME HELP THEE MASTER!

NO HARM WILL BEFALL **BALDER** WHILST WE LIVE!



VALDOR, MY LOYAL SQUIRE, IN A PLACE OF SAFETY YOU SHOULD BE!

NO, MASTER... I... **MASTER!** THOU ART WOUNDED! **BLEEDING!** BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!!

WHILST THOU ART IN ASGARD, SPECIAL ENCHANTMENTS MAKE THEE INVULNERABLE TO ALL HARM-- SAVE FOR WEAPONS MADE OF MISTLETOE!

METHINKS SOME STRANGE ALIEN FORCE IS **DISRUPTING** THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS OF ENCHANTMENT AND **PROBABILITY** WHICH GOVERN OUR VERY EXISTENCE!



WE MUST PREPARE FOR THE **WORST!**

**VOLSTAGG!** SETH'S DEMON HORDE WILL SOON BE **STORMING** THE VERY GATES OF OUR INNER CITY!

SOMEONE **MUST** SEE TO THE **EVACUATION** OF OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN!

THE LION OF ASGARD WOULD MUCH **PREFER** TO REMAIN HERE --AND HELP THEE **CRUSH** THESE ARROGANT INVADERS--



-- BUT I WILL DO AS THEE ASK!

HAVE NO FEAR! OUR **YOUTH** WILL SURVIVE!

NO MAN WOULD I TRUST **MORE** WITH THIS AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY!

THE FUTURE OF THE ASGARDIAN RACE IS IN **THY HANDS**, VALIANT ONE!!



MEANWHILE...

UGNN!



UGNN!

EVEN WITHOUT HIS GODLY POWER, THOR IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL! THE GUY JUST WON'T QUIT!

I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT HAPPENED TO PAM!



"SHE WASN'T CAPTURED WITH THE REST OF US! WHERE IS SHE? WHAT HAPPENED TO HER??"

THIS WAY! THE EARTH WOMAN MUST BE NEARBY! SHE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN VERY FAR!

BE CAUTIOUS! THE LOST ONES WERE RECENTLY SPOTTED IN THIS AREA-- AND WE DARE NOT CROSS PATHS WITH THEM!

THIS IS CRAZY-- INSANE!



I USED TO BE A SIMPLE SUBURBAN HOUSEWIFE BEFORE I WAS GIVEN SUPER-POWERS!

I SHOULD BE HOME DOING THE LAUNDRY! NOT FIGHTING IN SOME STUPID INTERGALACTIC WAR!

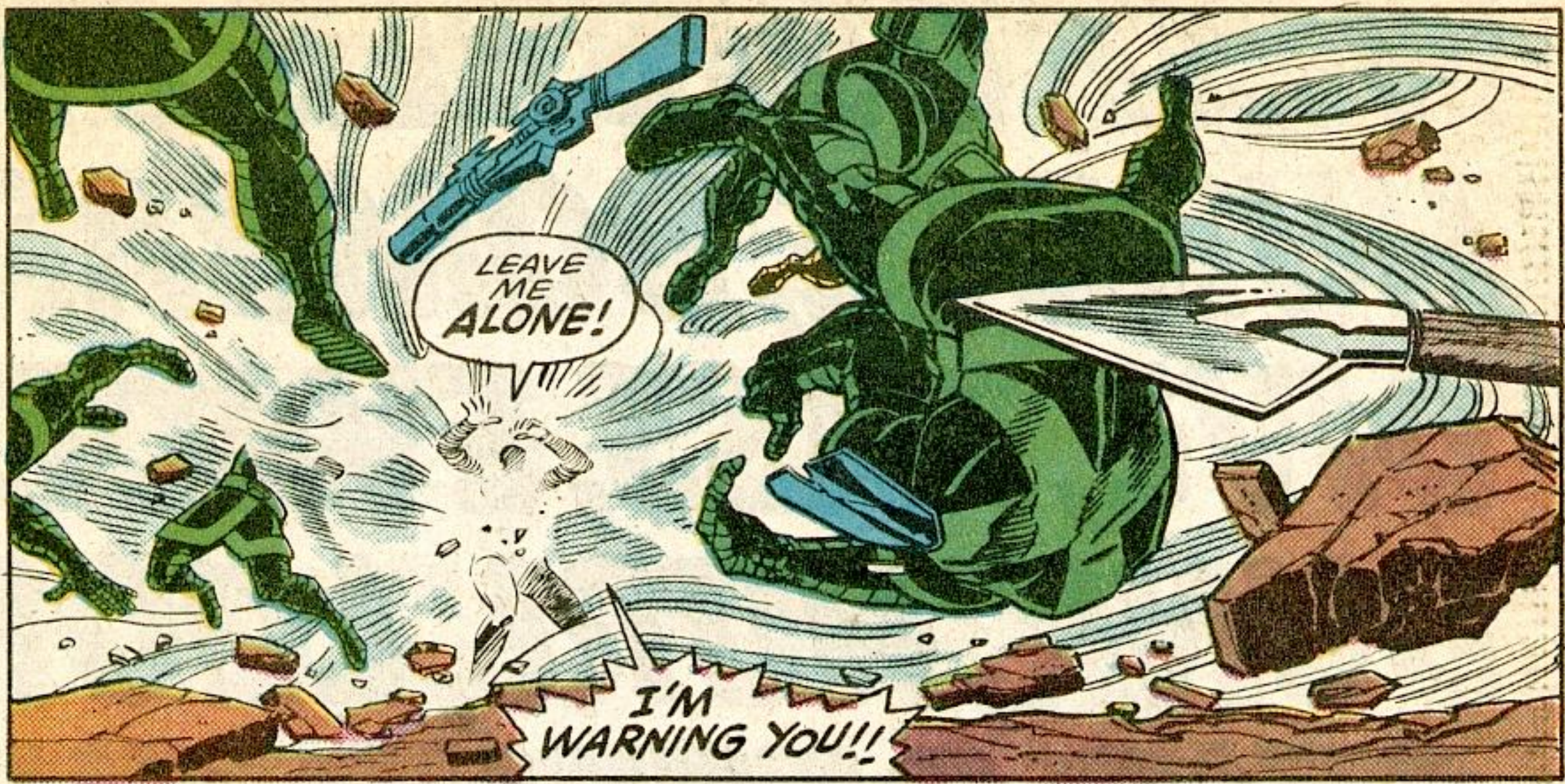
I--I'M SO AFRAID... I CAN BARELY BREATHE!



OVER HERE--!!

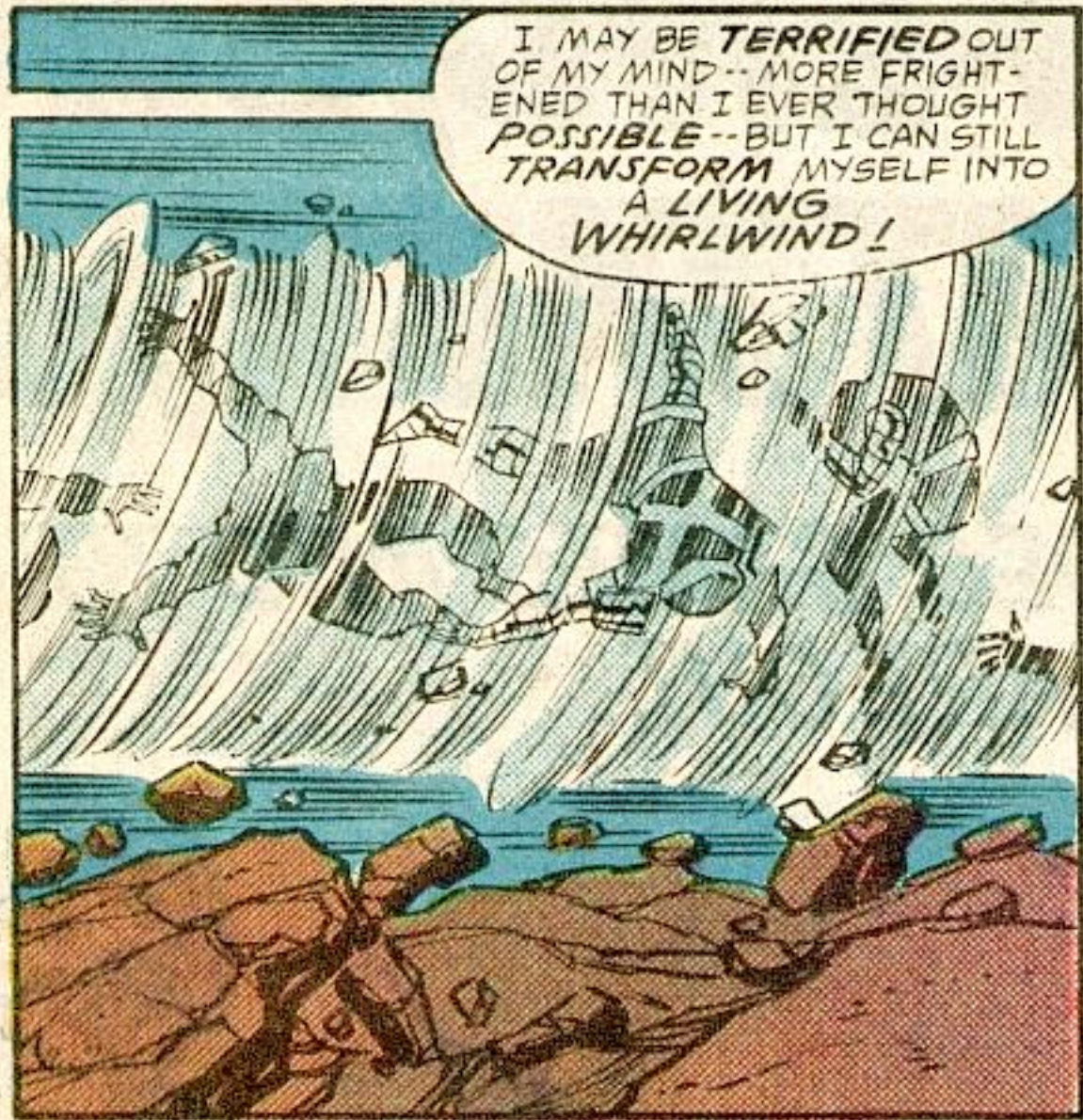
I'VE FOUND HER!!

NO! NO!!



LEAVE ME ALONE!

I'M WARNING YOU!!

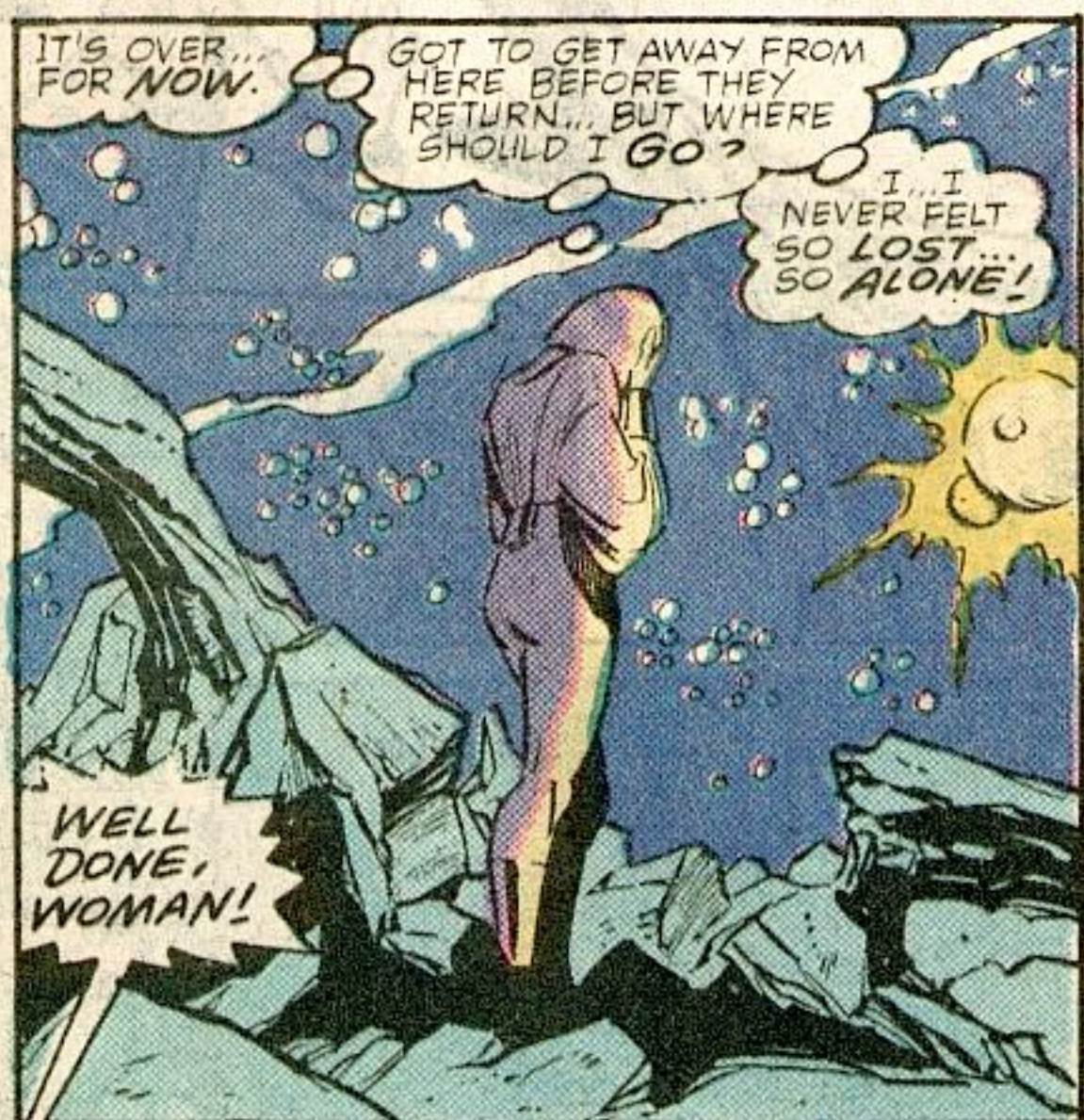


I MAY BE TERRIFIED OUT OF MY MIND-- MORE FRIGHTENED THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE-- BUT I CAN STILL TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO A LIVING WHIRLWIND!



MY TORNADO-LEVEL WINDS WILL SPIN YOU FASTER AND FASTER-- UNTIL YOU GO FLYING BACK TO YOUR HORRIBLE BLACK PYRAMID!

HAVE A HAPPY LANDING!



IT'S OVER... FOR NOW.

GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE THEY RETURN... BUT WHERE SHOULD I GO?

I... I NEVER FELT SO LOST... SO ALONE!

WELL DONE, WOMAN!



WHA...?? WHO ARE YOU??

WE ARE THOSE WHO ARE CALLED THE LOST ONES!!

EVEN AS PAM SHAW, THE WIND WARRIOR, GASPS WITH WONDER...



UGNN!!

--THE MIGHTY THOR CONTINUES HIS VALIANT STRUGGLE AGAINST UNYIELDING BONDS--

--AND, IN A NORTHERN REGION OF ASGARD--



WE ARE STALLED, MY LORD SETH!

YON CASTLE IS SURROUNDED BY A SEEMINGLY IMPREGNABLE FORCE-SHIELD!



IT'S NO USE MASTER! OUR MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS CANNOT PENETRATE IT!

THEN CEASE YOUR FUTILE EFFORTS!



I SHALL ATTEND TO THIS MATTER PERSONALLY!

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD SETH WALKS FOWARD--

--AND, TO THE UTTER ASTONISHMENT OF HIS TROOPS, THE INVISIBLE BARRIER PARTS TO ADMIT HIM!



THE SHIELD SEALS ITSELF BEHIND ME! PREVENTING ANY-ONE FROM FOLLOWING!

'TIS AS I SUSPECTED! THIS CASTLE MUST BE THE HOME OF--

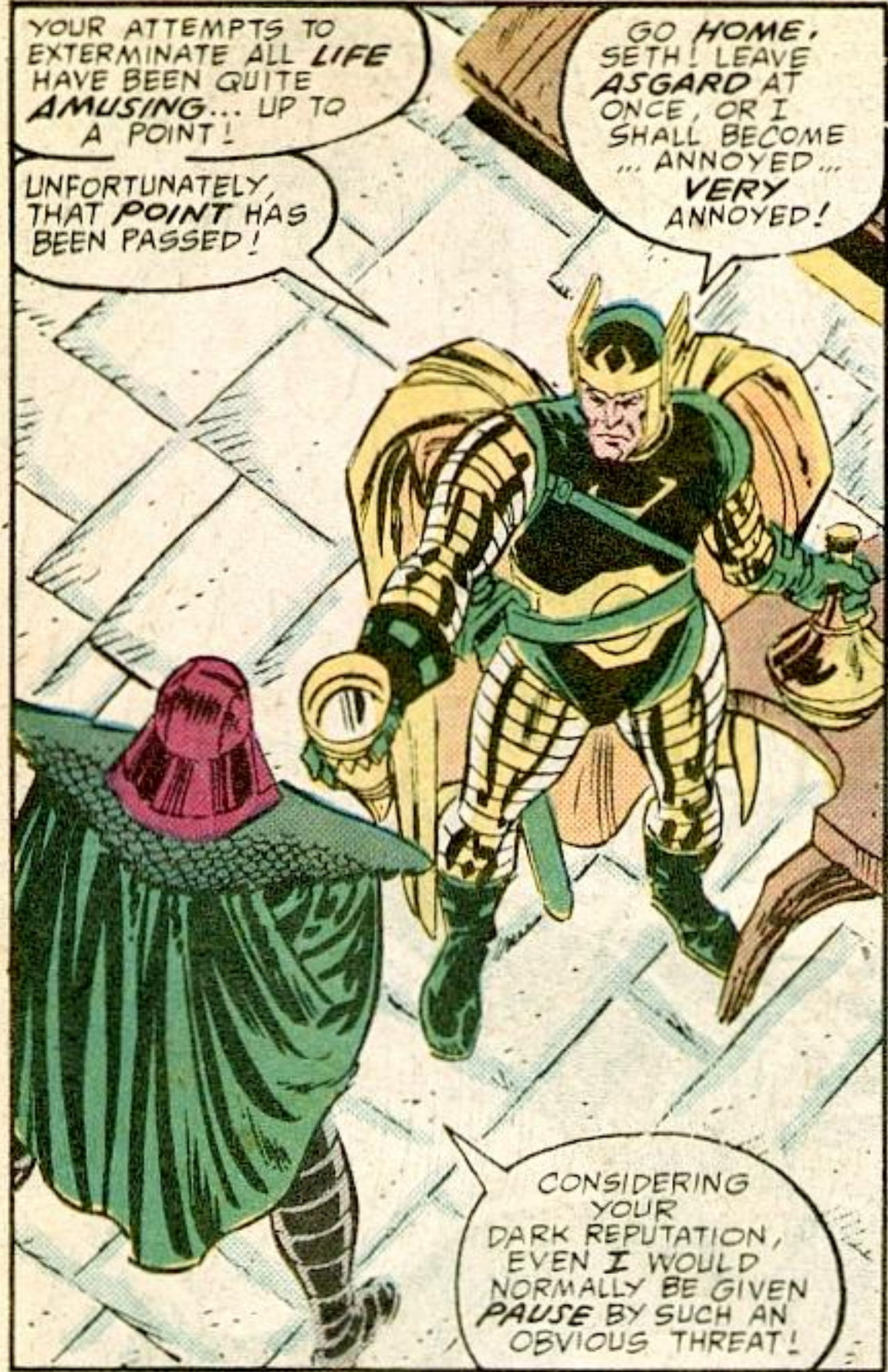
**LOKI,**  
THE SELF-STYLED  
GOD OF EVIL!!

RELATIVE TERMS LIKE "GOOD"  
AND "EVIL" ARE MEANINGLESS  
TO BEINGS SUCH AS WE,  
SERPENT-GOD... SAVE  
WHEN ONE IS DISCUSSING  
MY SICKENINGLY NOBLE  
HALF-BROTHER  
THOR!

I PREFER TO THINK  
OF MYSELF AS THE GOD  
OF ENTERTAINMENT!  
OF LAUGHTER AND  
FRIVOLITY!

'TIS MY SACRED  
DUTY TO REGALE  
THE UNIVERSE WITH  
ENLIVENING LITTLE  
DIVERSIONS, TO  
PREVENT IT FROM  
BECOMING TOO DULL--  
TOO COMPLACENT,  
TOO STAGNANT!

IN MANY WAYS,  
YOU AND I ARE  
MUCH ALIKE--



YOUR ATTEMPTS TO EXTERMINATE ALL LIFE HAVE BEEN QUITE AMUSING... UP TO A POINT!

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT POINT HAS BEEN PASSED!

GO HOME, SETH! LEAVE ASGARD AT ONCE, OR I SHALL BECOME... ANNOYED... VERY ANNOYED!

CONSIDERING YOUR DARK REPUTATION, EVEN I WOULD NORMALLY BE GIVEN PAUSE BY SUCH AN OBVIOUS THREAT!



NOT THIS TIME!

MY EVENTUAL VICTORY IS ASSURED! NOTHING CAN PREVENT ME FROM FINALLY EXTINGUISHING THE FLAME OF LIFE!

SOMETHING IN YOUR EYES...

YOU TRULY BELIEVE IT, DO YOU NOT?

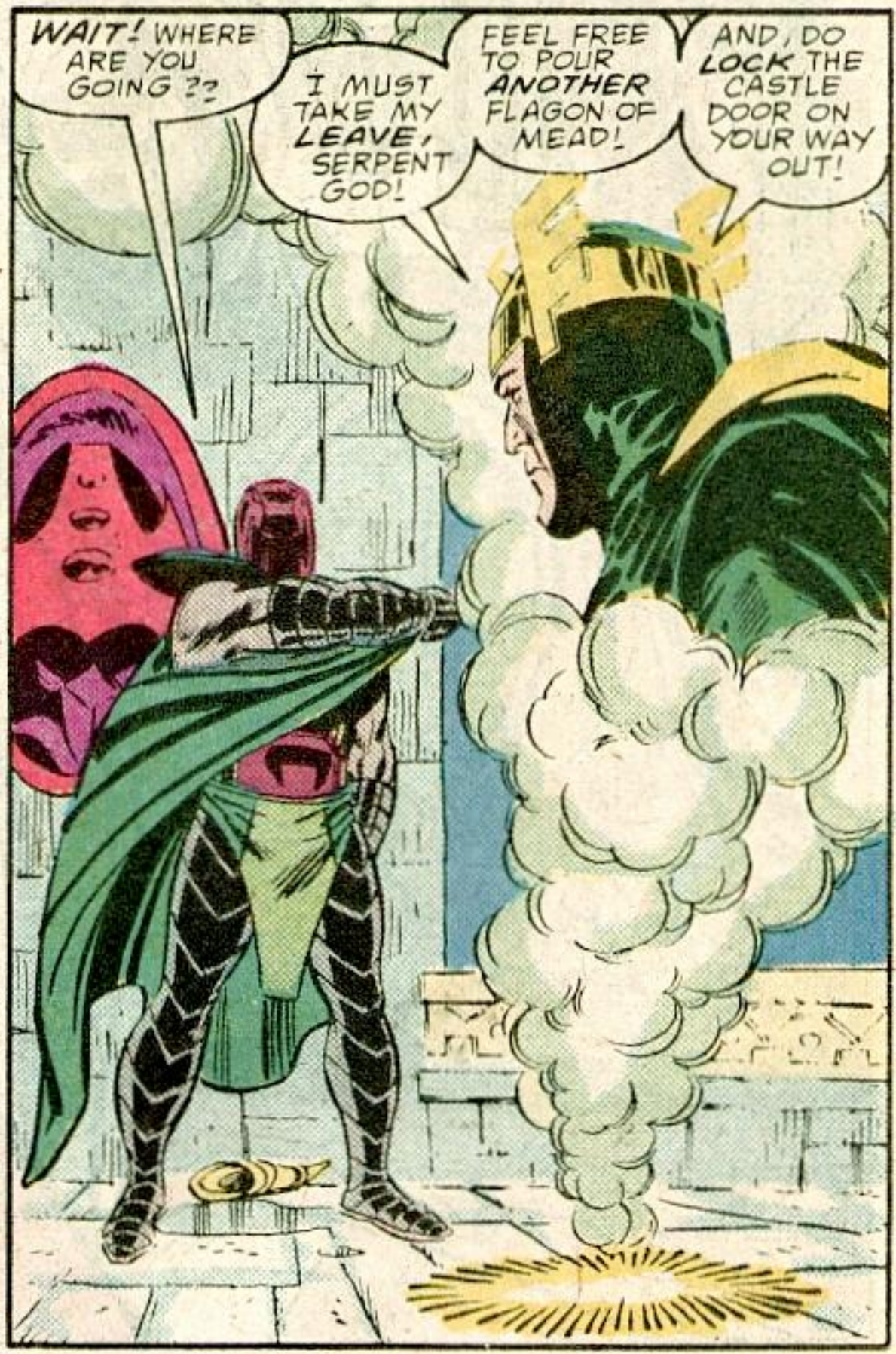


THIS IS MOST INTRIGUING! EITHER YOU HAVE GONE TOTALLY MAD-- OR YOU HAVE STUMBLED UPON A DEVASTATING NEW SOURCE OF POWER-- WHICH GUARANTEES YOUR SUCCESS!

IF SUCH POWER TRULY EXISTS--!

BE ASSURED THAT IT DOES!

Hmmm... THEN THERE ARE MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CONSIDER...



WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING??

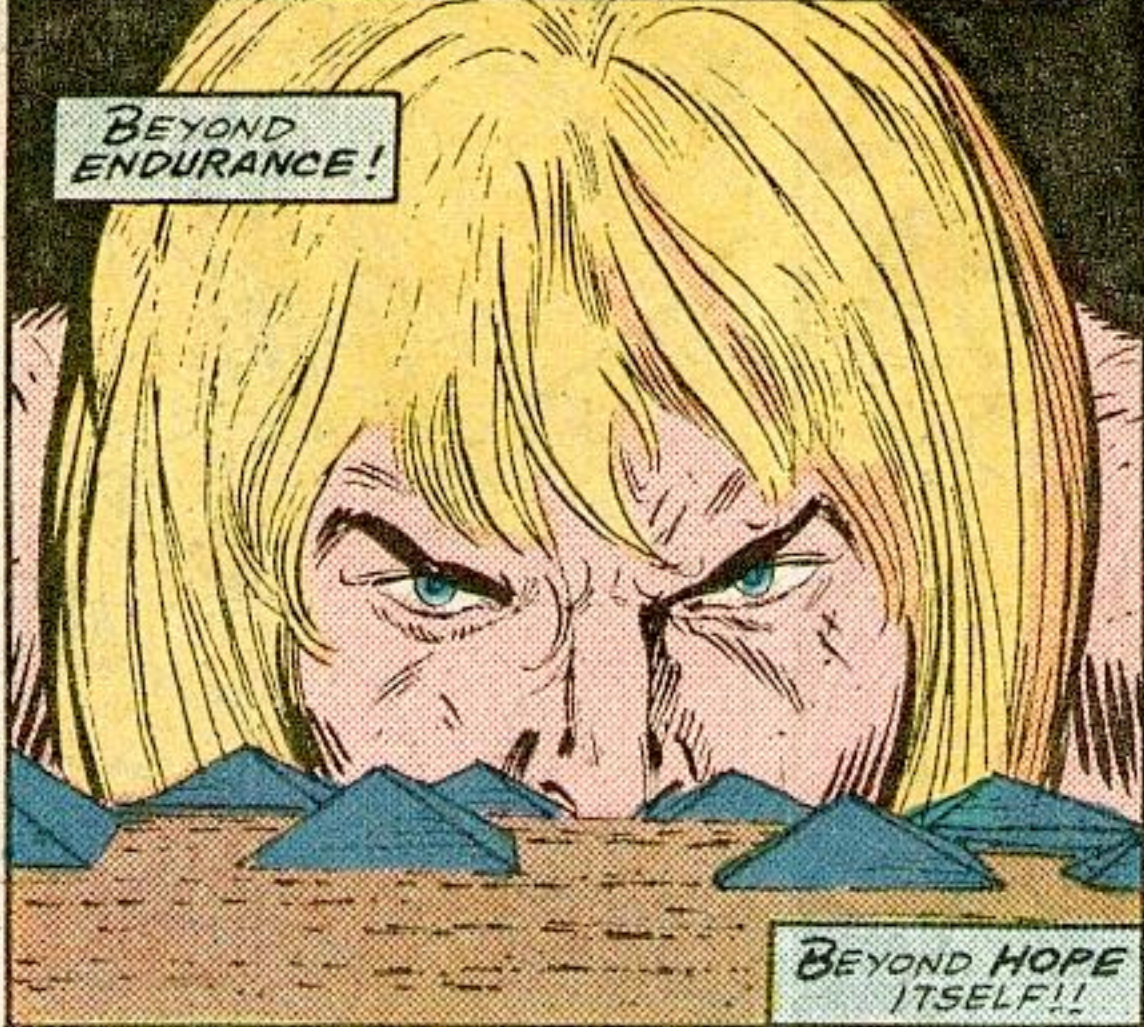
I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE, SERPENT GOD!

FEEL FREE TO POUR ANOTHER FLAGON OF MEAD!

AND, DO LOCK THE CASTLE DOOR ON YOUR WAY OUT!

IN THE BOWELS OF THE BLACK PYRAMID, THE GOD OF THUNDER STRAINS HIS PROTESTING LIMBS BEYOND THE THRESHOLD OF PAIN!

BEYOND ENDURANCE!



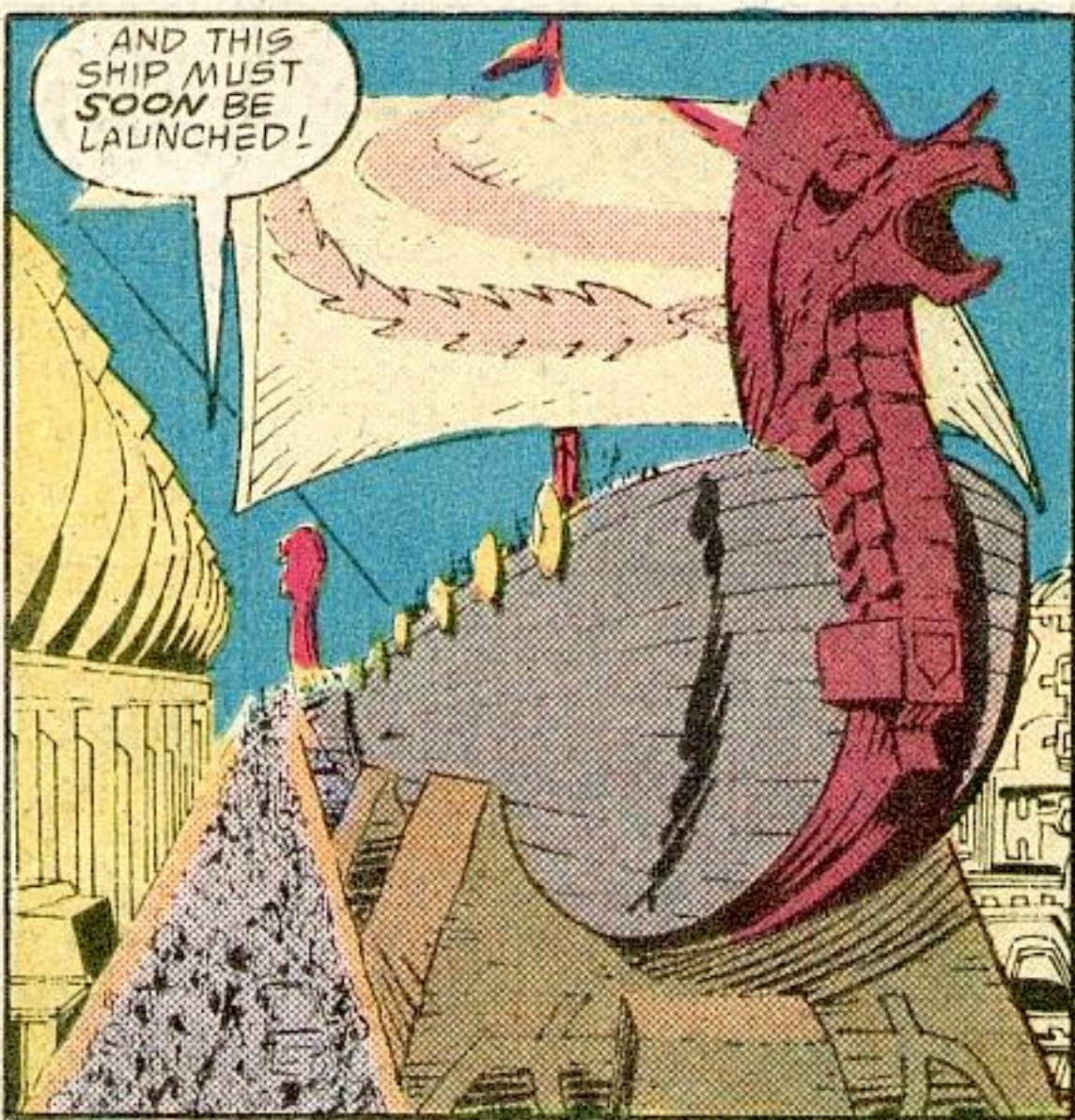
BEYOND HOPE ITSELF!!

AND, AT THAT SELF-SAME INSTANT...



HURRY! MOVE ALONG! WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, THE ENEMY DRAWS NIGH!

AND THIS SHIP MUST SOON BE LAUNCHED!



GUNDRUN, MY DEAR, I FEAR THIS MAY BE OUR FINAL FAREWELL!



IT NEED NOT BE SO, VOL-STAGG!

COURAGEOUSLY HAST THOU ALWAYS SERVED THE GOLDEN REALM -- BUT THY WARRIOR-TIME IS DONE!

THOU ART OLD -- LEAVE THIS WAR TO THE YOUNGER MEN! COME AWAY WITH US!



DO NOT SHAME ME, WOMAN!

MY DUTY IS CLEAR. GET ABOARD... AND LEAVE ME IN PEACE!



THOU ART A STUBBORN OLD FOOL!

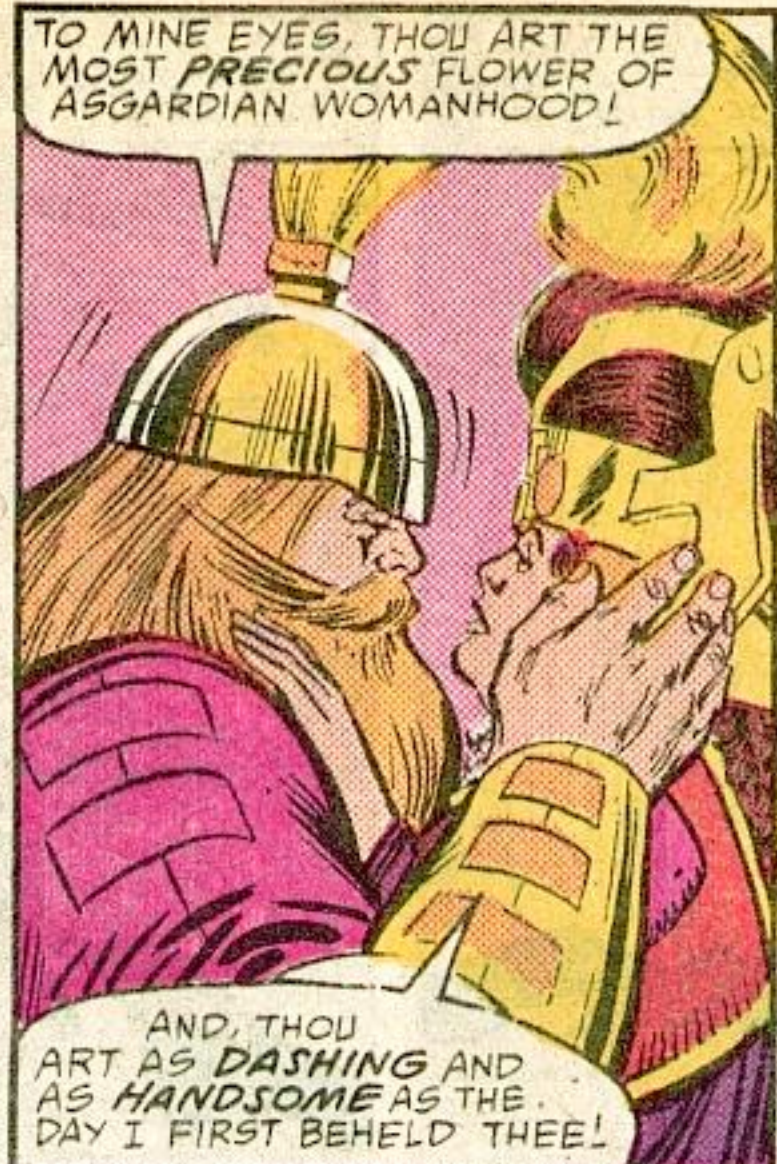
AND, THOU A NAGGING HARRY!



VOLSTAGG, I...

FORGIVE ME, BELOVED!

WE CANNOT PART ON SUCH HARSH WORDS!



TO MINE EYES, THOU ART THE MOST PRECIOUS FLOWER OF ASGARDIAN WOMANHOOD!

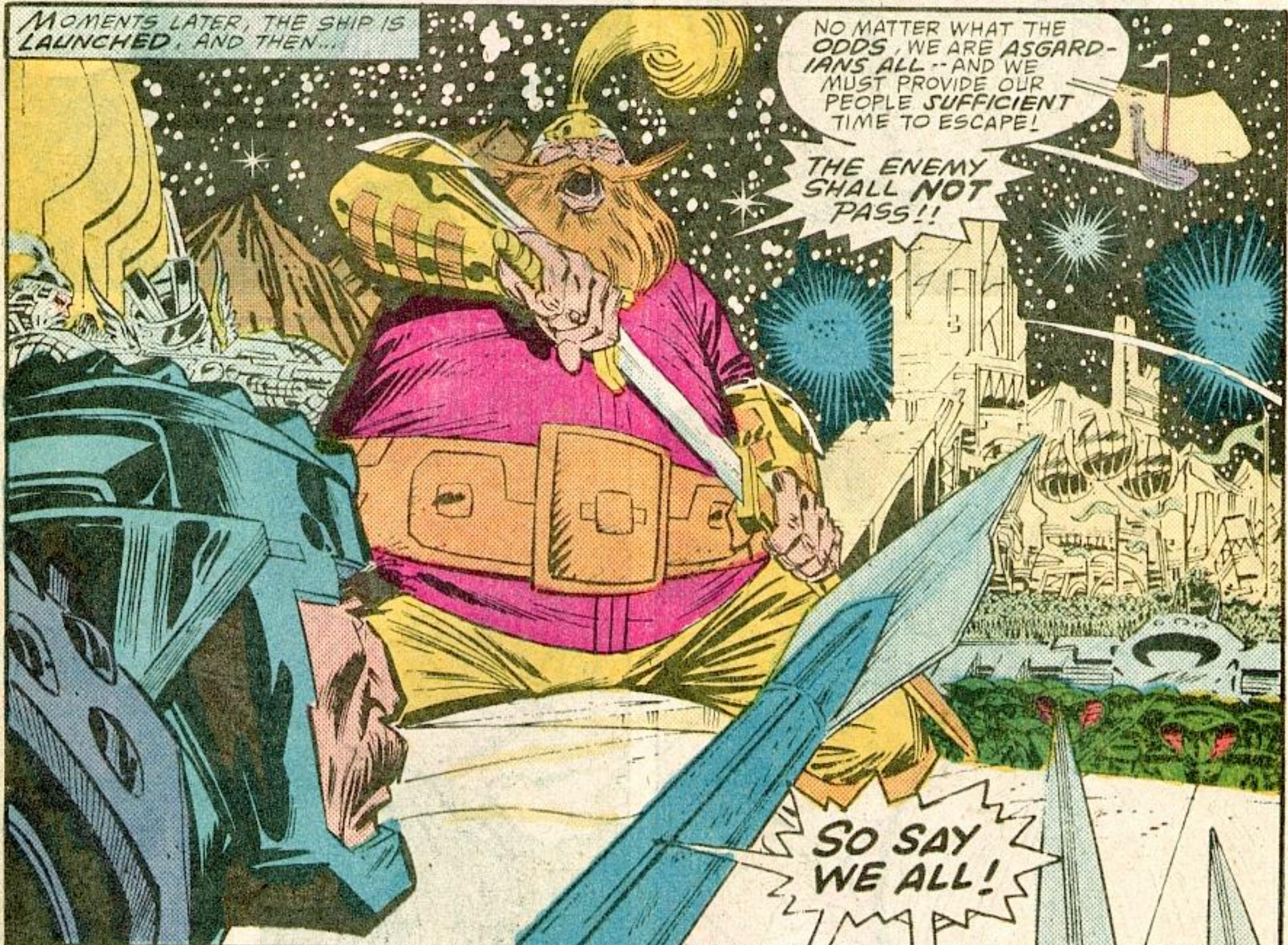
AND, THOU ART AS DASHING AND AS HANDSOME AS THE DAY I FIRST BEHELD THEE!



VOLSTAGG--! THE LEGIONS OF DEATH APPROACH!

TO THE SHIP MY LOVE! GO!!

FARE THEE WELL, MY BRAVE WARRIOR! MAY THE FATES PROTECT THEE!



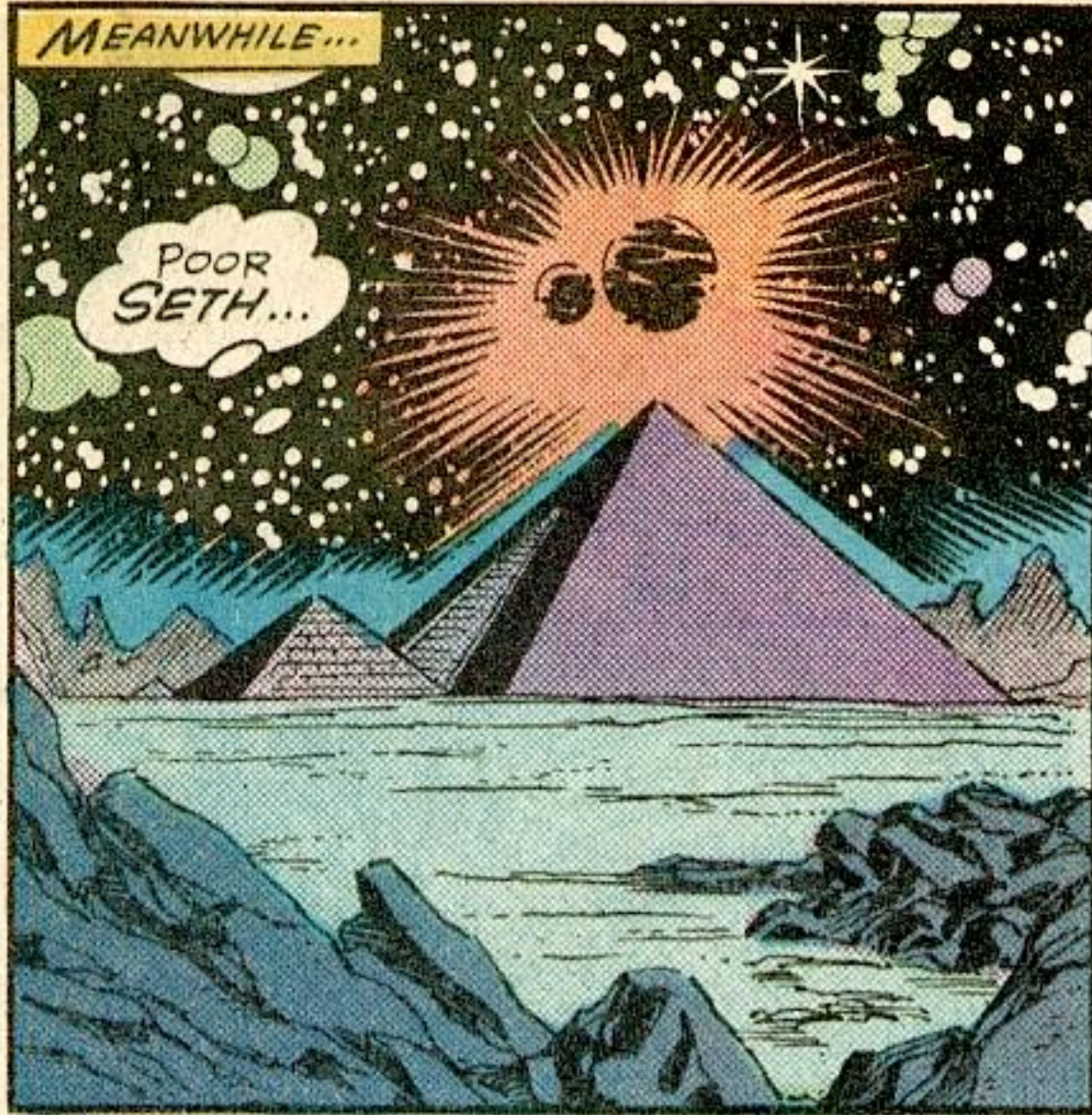
MOMENTS LATER, THE SHIP IS LAUNCHED, AND THEN...

NO MATTER WHAT THE ODDS, WE ARE ASGARDIANS ALL-- AND WE MUST PROVIDE OUR PEOPLE SUFFICIENT TIME TO ESCAPE!

THE ENEMY SHALL NOT PASS!!

SO SAY WE ALL!





MEANWHILE...

POOR SETH...



... HE TAKES HIMSELF MUCH TOO SERIOUSLY!

ONLY A GOD WITH ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF HUMOR WOULD E'ER EMBARK ON A CRUSADE TO ELIMINATE ALL LIFE!



IF A WEAPON DOES EXIST WHICH CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS GRUESOME TASK, HE IS CERTAINLY THE WRONG ONE TO WIELD IT!

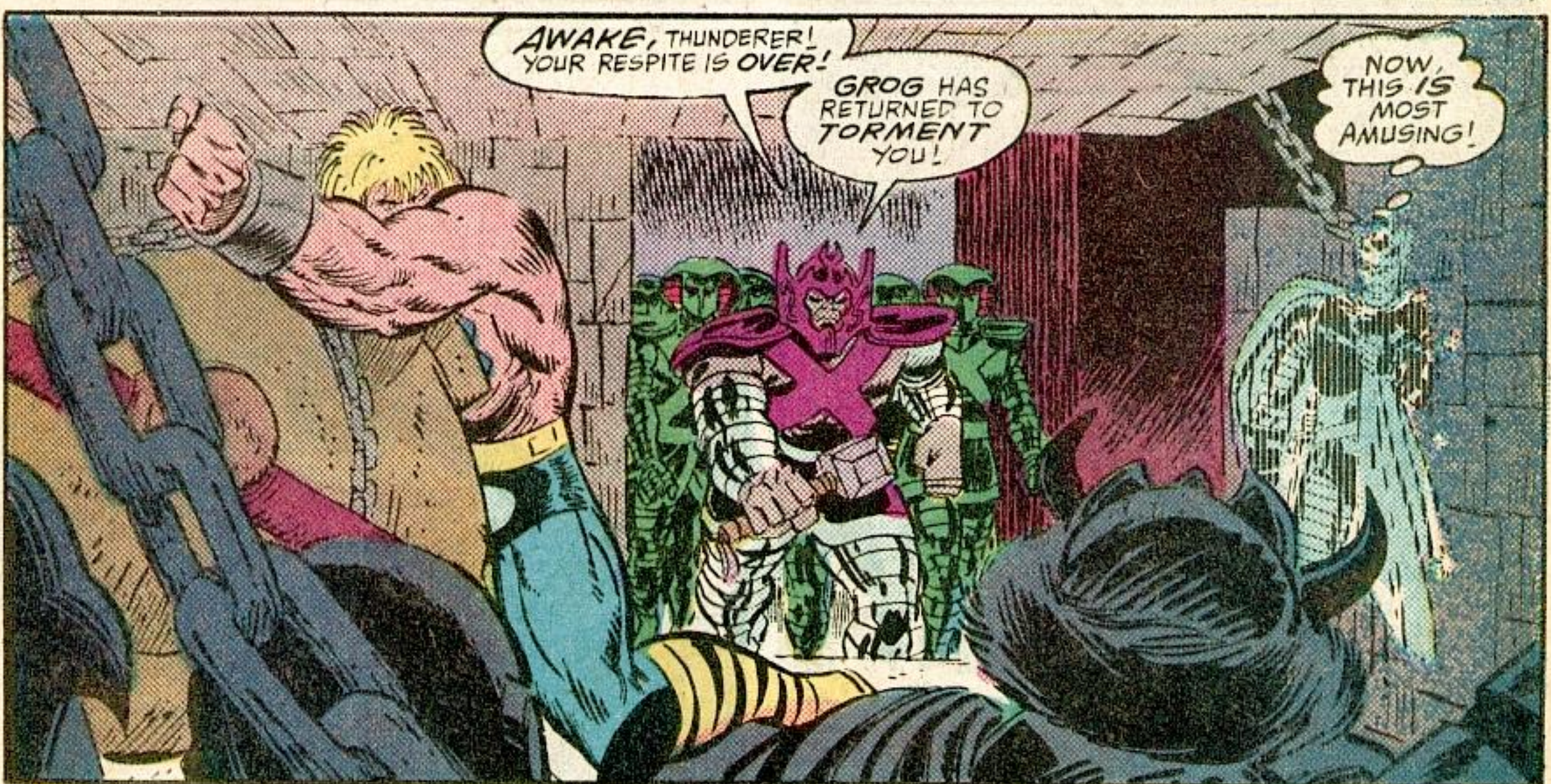
HOWEVER, I AM THE PERFECT...

WAIT! I SENSE A FAMILIAR PRESENCE WITHIN THESE WALLS!



IS IT POSSIBLE?? CAN IT REALLY BE... HIM???

MAYHAP I SHALL DISCOVER...



AWAKE, THUNDERER! YOUR RESPITE IS OVER!

GROG HAS RETURNED TO TORMENT YOU!

NOW, THIS IS MOST AMUSING!



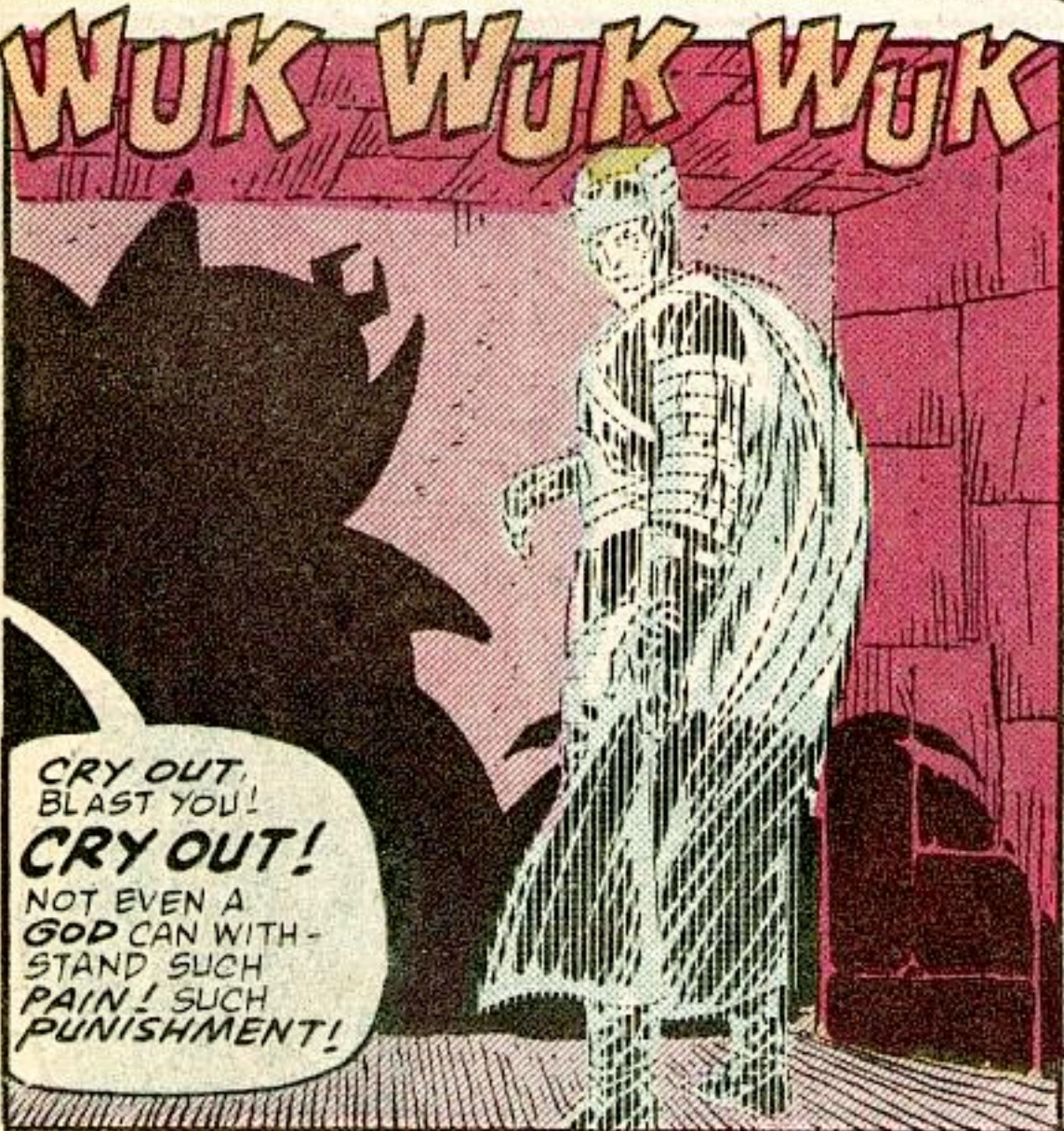
WHAT?! ARE YOU STILL MOCKING ME WITH YOUR ARROGANT SILENCE?!

STILL REFUSING TO WIMPER AND BEG FOR MERCY?



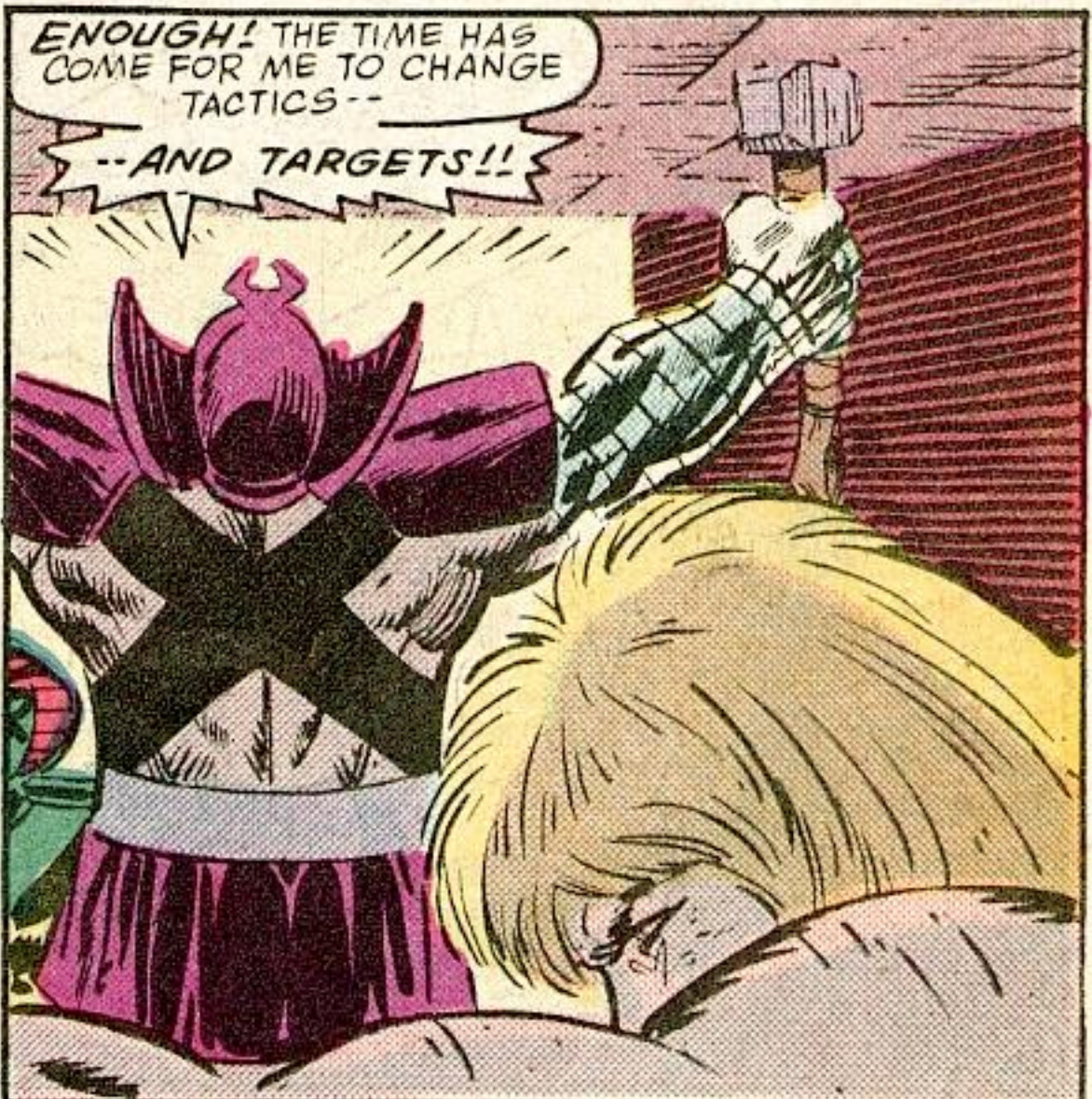
I SHALL BREAK YOU, THUNDER GOD! BREAK YOUR BODY--

--AND YOUR SPIRIT!



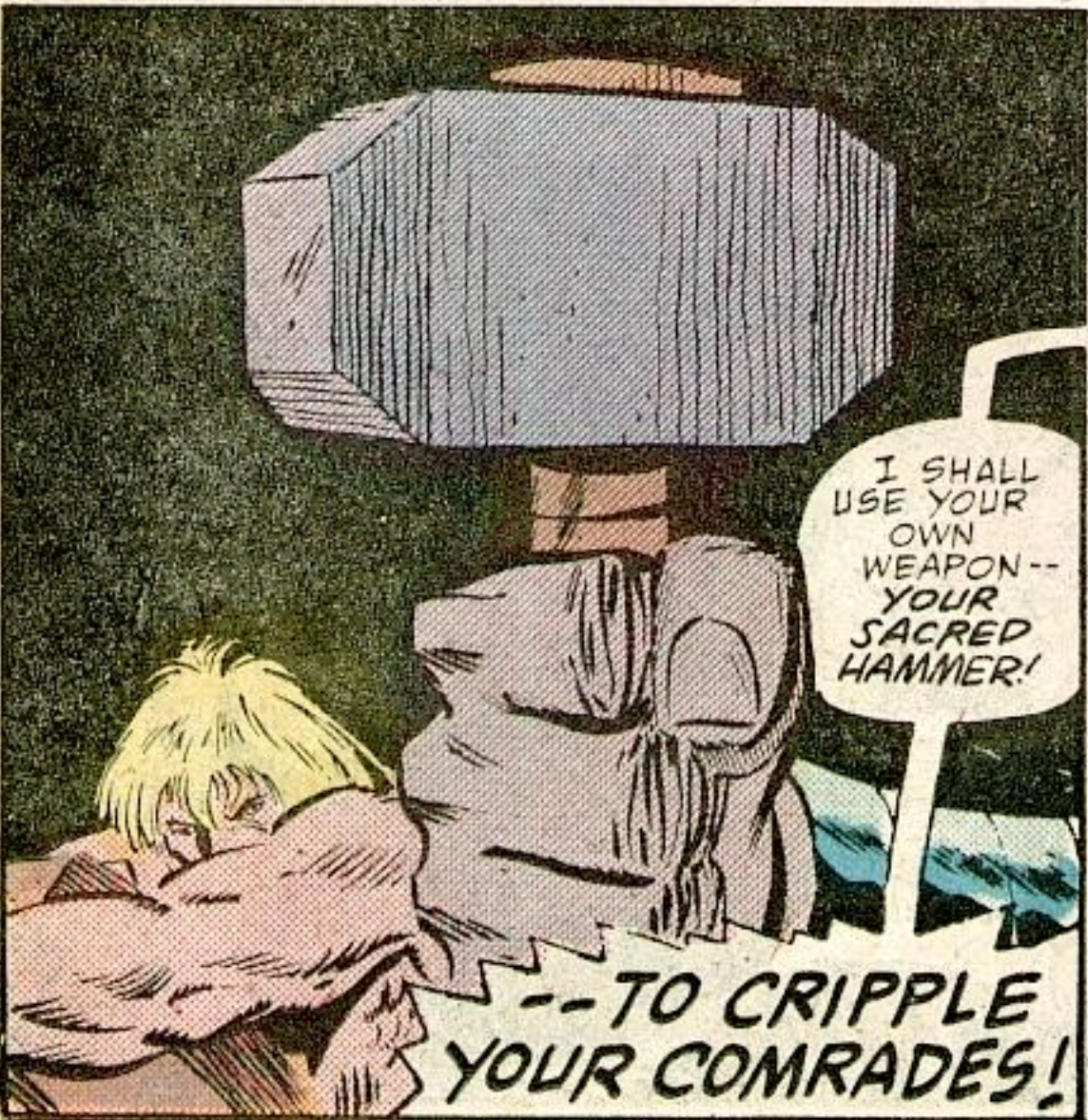
WUK WUK WUK

CRY OUT, BLAST YOU! CRY OUT! NOT EVEN A GOD CAN WITHSTAND SUCH PAIN! SUCH PUNISHMENT!



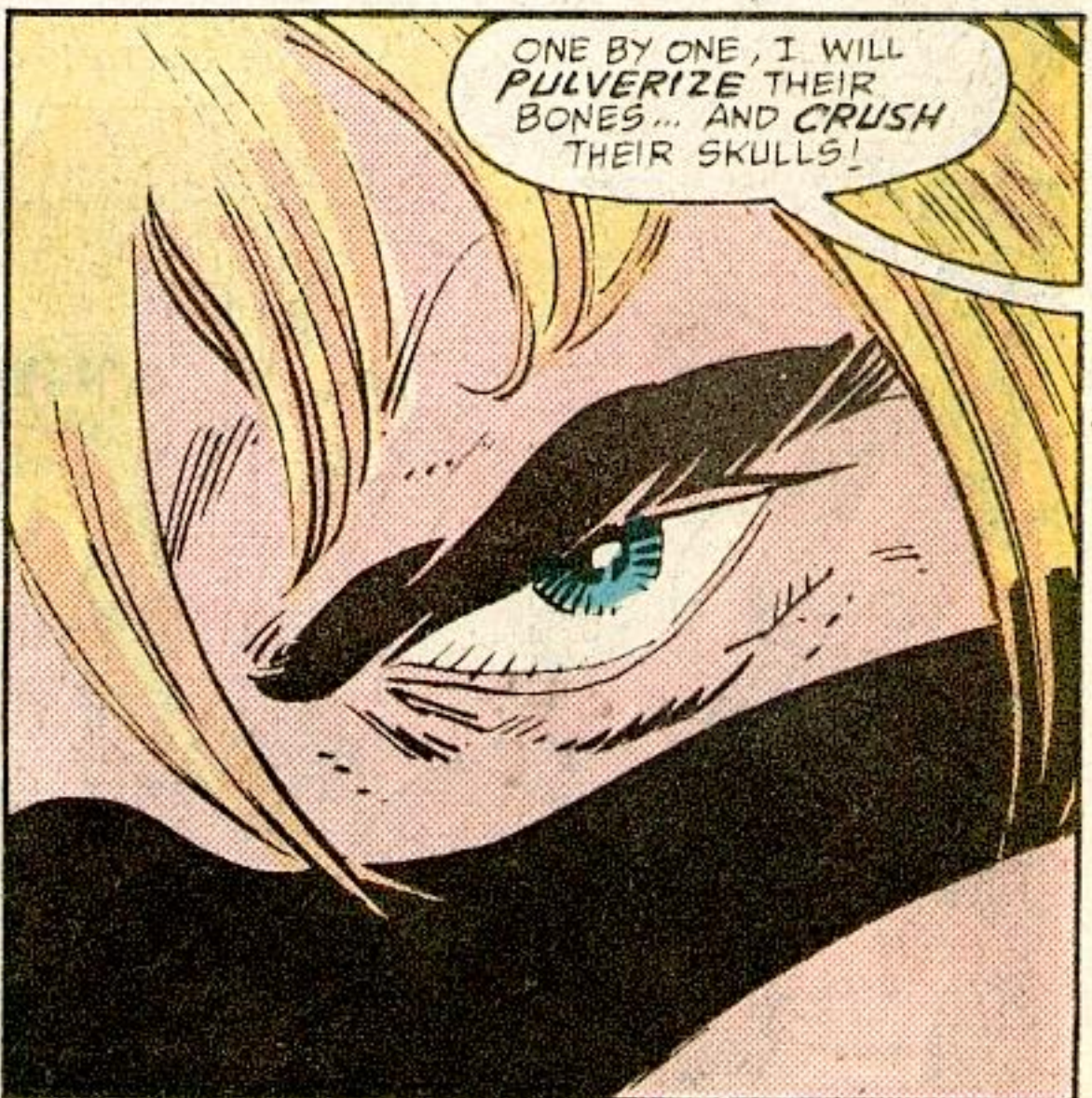
ENOUGH! THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO CHANGE TACTICS--

--AND TARGETS!!



I SHALL USE YOUR OWN WEAPON-- YOUR SACRED HAMMER!

--TO CRIPPLE YOUR COMRADES!



ONE BY ONE, I WILL PULVERIZE THEIR BONES... AND CRUSH THEIR SKULLS!

NAY!!

I SAY THEE  
NAY!!

КРАКА-ТНООК



# THWAK



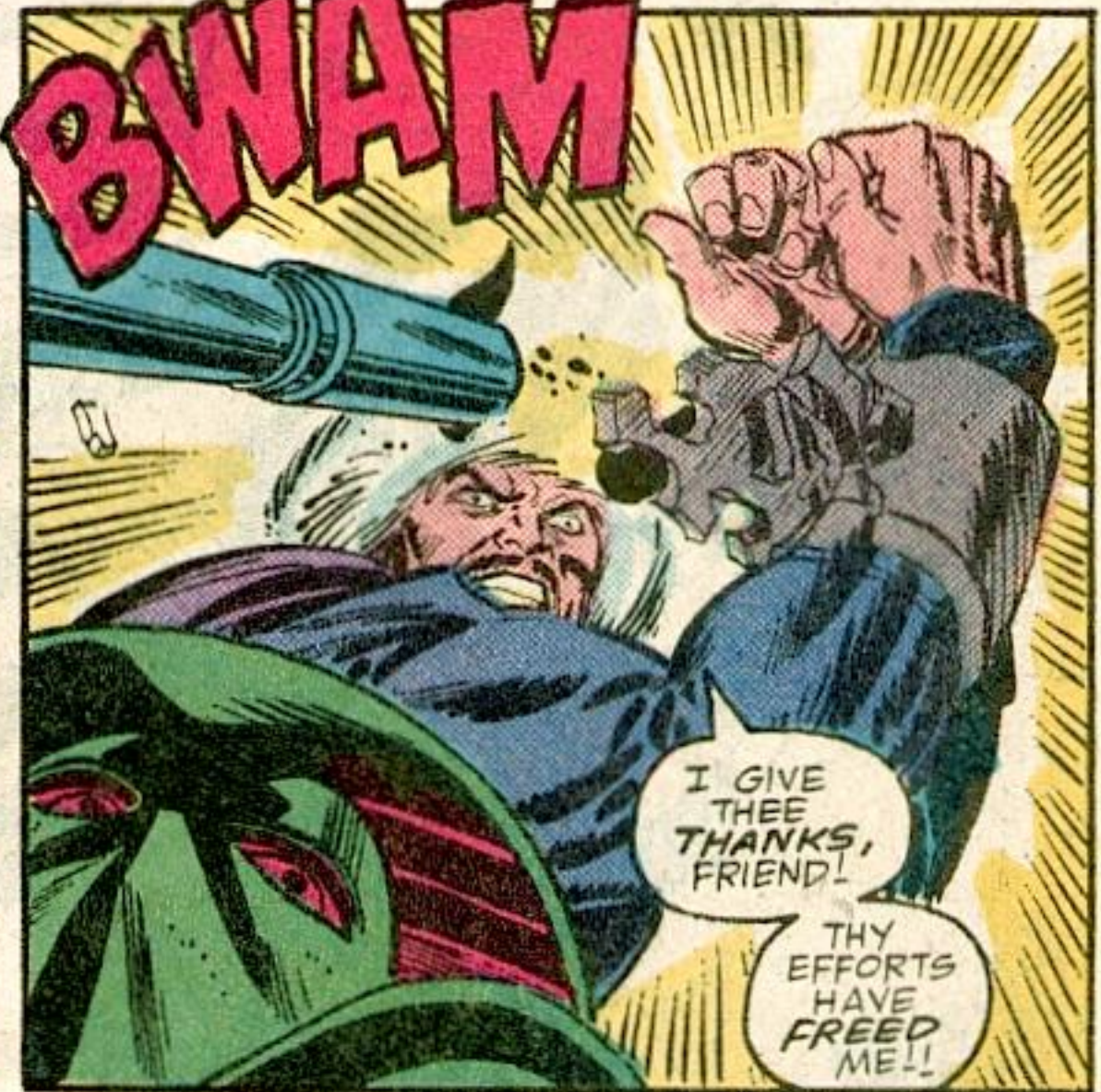
NEVER WILL IT BE USED FOR SUCH HEINOUS ACTS!

NEVER WILL I ALLOW THEE TO DEFAME SACRED MJOLNIR!



KILL THOR! SHOOT HIM DOWN LIKE--  
EERK

SILENCE! FOR I HAVE A FAR BETTER USE FOR THY BLASTER!



# BWAM

I GIVE THEE THANKS, FRIEND!

THY EFFORTS HAVE FREED ME!!



WITHIN MERE MOMENTS HOGUN THE GRIM UNSHACKLES HIS COMRADES, AND THEN...

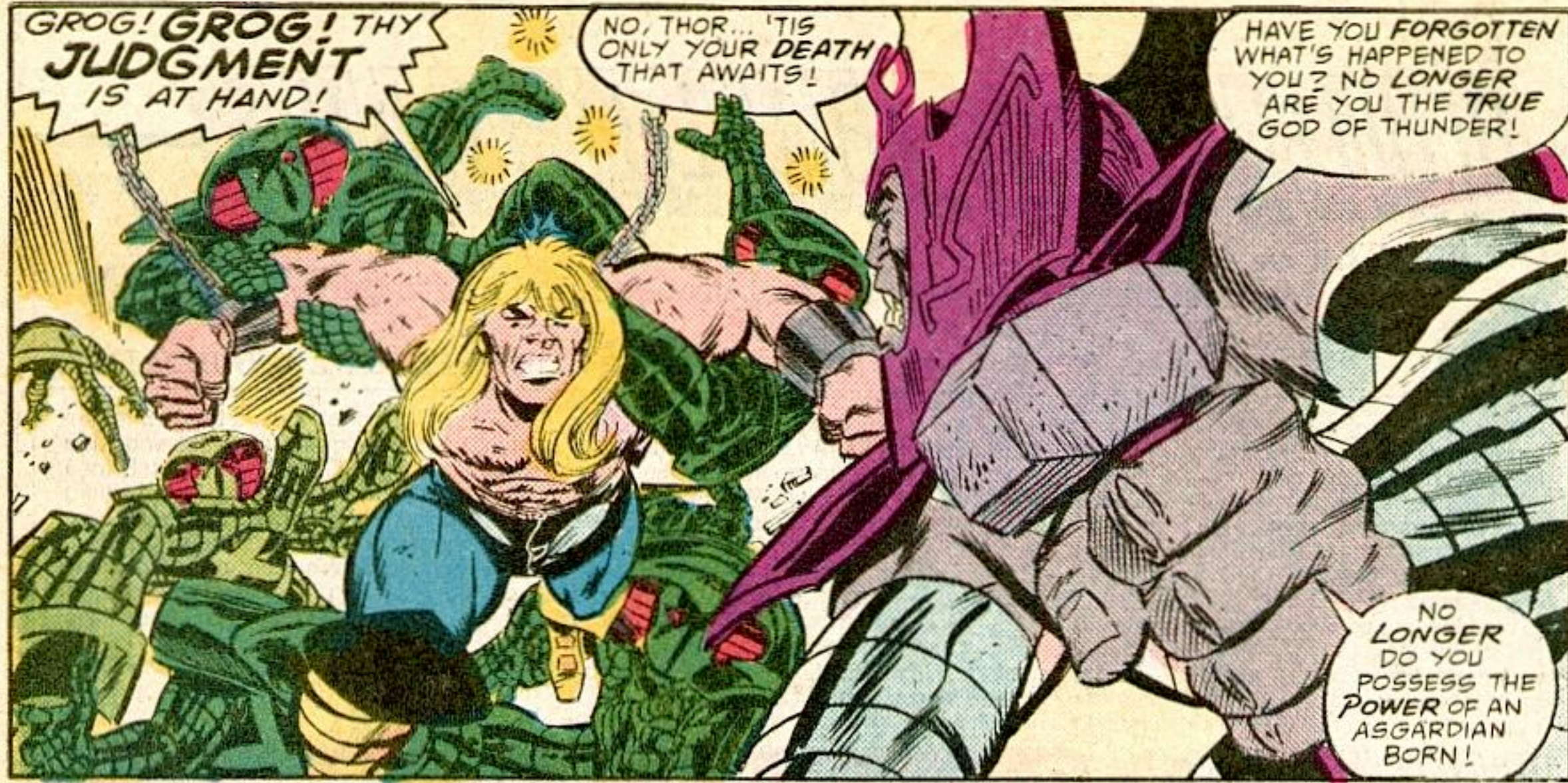
IT'S TIME TO CUT LOOSE!!

AYE, WE STRIKE FOR ALL WHO LIVE! FOR ASGARD!!

# FOR THOR!!

THIS IS IT! THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE IS AT STAKE!

AND WE DARE NOT FAIL!



**GROG! GROG! THY JUDGMENT IS AT HAND!**

NO, THOR... 'TIS ONLY YOUR DEATH THAT AWAITS!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? NO LONGER ARE YOU THE TRUE GOD OF THUNDER!

NO LONGER DO YOU POSSESS THE POWER OF AN ASGARDIAN BORN!



YOU ARE MORTAL NOW--AND YOUR OWN WEAPON SHALL DESTROY YOU!!

'MORTAL I MAY BE--



--BUT STILL AM I THE SON OF ODIN!



STILL DO I POSSESS THE SPIRIT AND COURAGE OF A GOD!

**PWAM**

AND ERE THIS BATTLE ENDS--



--STILL SHALL THOR STAND TRIUMPHANT!!

NO! NO! THIS CANNOT BE!

YOUR CAUSE IS LOST! HOPELESS!

NO CAUSE IS E'ER  
LOST TO ONE WHO  
IS COURAGEOUS  
IN SPIRIT AND  
STRONG OF  
LIMB!



**TWAKK**

THOU DOST  
SNEER AT  
MORTAL MAN--  
YET THERE  
CAN BE MANY  
LESSONS  
LEARNED!



**TWAM**

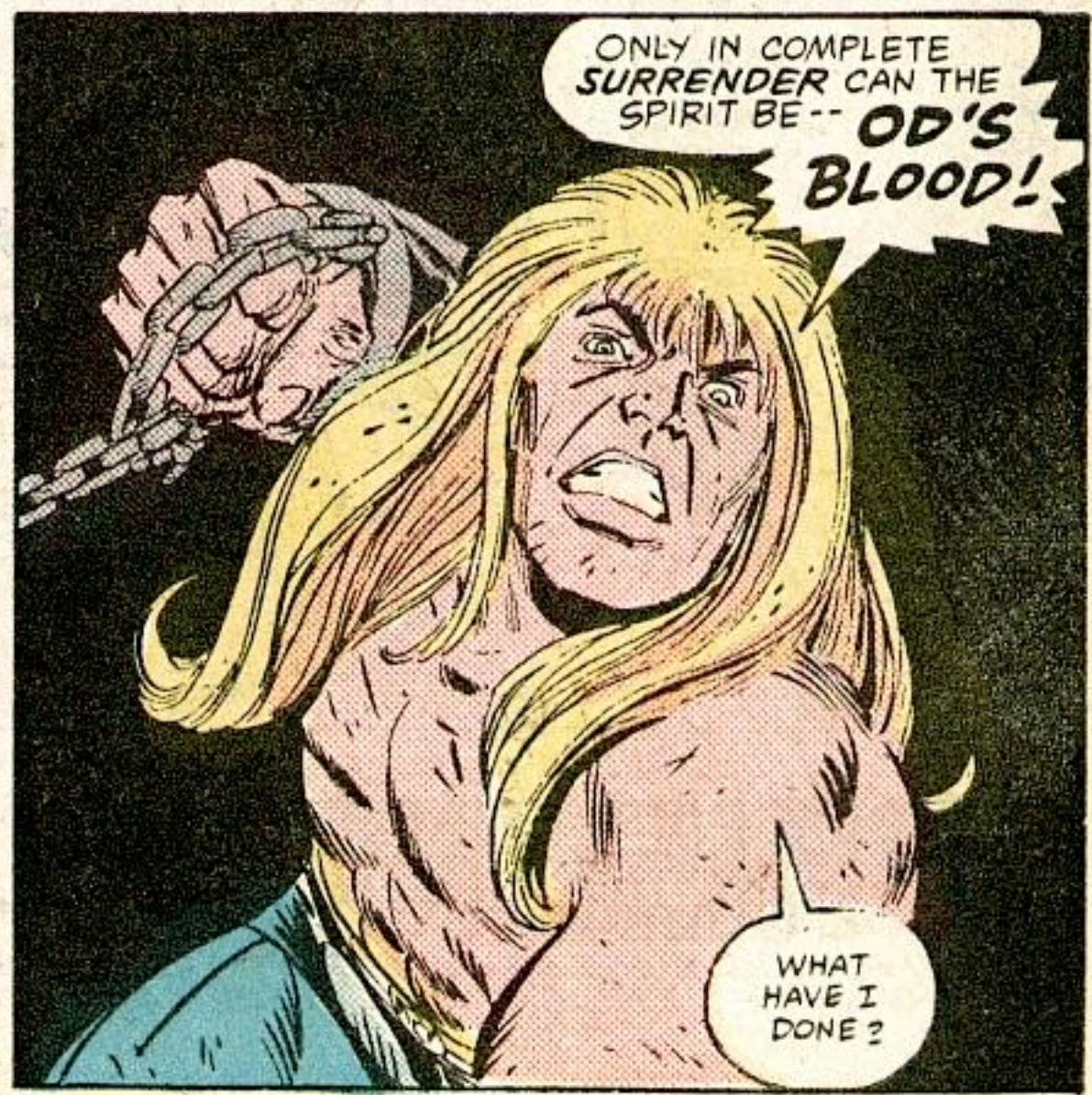
NOTHING IS  
HOPELESS!

NOTHING IS  
INEVITABLE!!



ONLY IN BASE DESPAIR  
CAN THE SOUL BE  
CRUSHED!

**PWAK  
PWAK  
PWAK**



ONLY IN COMPLETE  
SURRENDER CAN THE  
SPIRIT BE--  
OD'S  
BLOOD!

WHAT  
HAVE I  
DONE?



TRULY WAS THE BLOODLUST UPON ME!

ONLY A MADDENED BEAST CONTINUES TO BATTER A FALLEN FOE!

THE SON OF ODIN IS HONOR BOUND TO STRIKE FOR JUSTICE -- NOT VENGEANCE!

UHN!

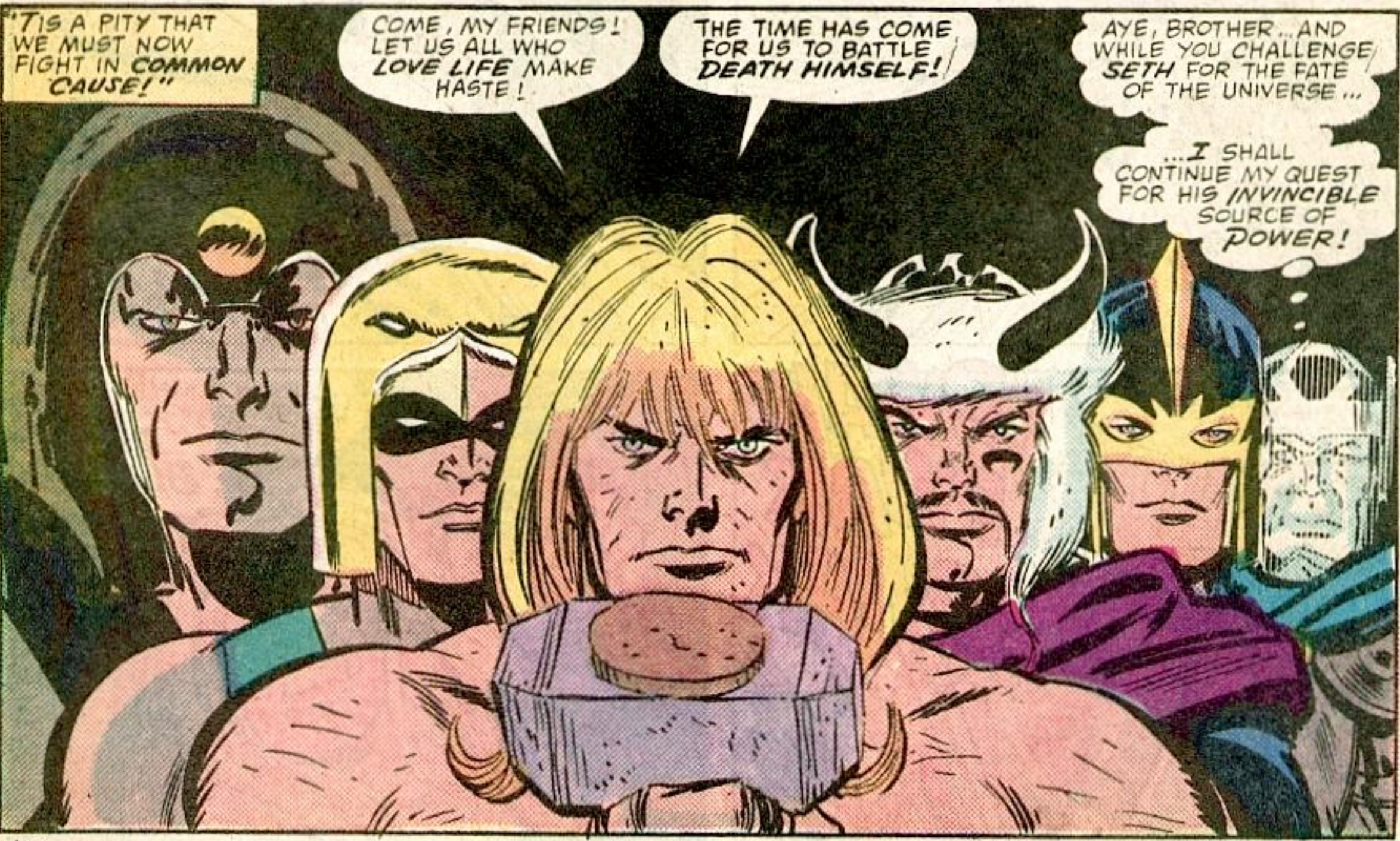


JUSTICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ASGARD!

JUSTICE FOR ALL WHO LIVE!

METHINKS MY DEAR BROTHER IS EXHAUSTED AND ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE!

A SIMPLE SPELL WOULD SURELY SLAY HIM!



'TIS A PITY THAT WE MUST NOW FIGHT IN COMMON CAUSE!

COME, MY FRIENDS! LET US ALL WHO LOVE LIFE MAKE HASTE!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO BATTLE DEATH HIMSELF!

AYE, BROTHER... AND WHILE YOU CHALLENGE SETH FOR THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE...

...I SHALL CONTINUE MY QUEST FOR HIS INVINCIBLE SOURCE OF POWER!

WHATEVER YOU DO, WHEREVER YOU GO, THOU MUST NOT MISS NEXT ISSUE!!

# THE PRISONERS OF THE BLACK PYRAMID!

FEATURING: THE SIEGE OF ASGARD! THE SACRIFICE OF THE ENCHANTRESS! THE SINISTER SECRET OF SETH! THE STARTLING RETURN OF AN OLD FRIEND! AND MUCH, MUCH, MORE!!