



**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

the X-MEN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

IND.

21
JUNE

12¢



"FROM WHENCE COMES DOMINUS?"



THE SHIP! IT'S CHANGED DIRECTION! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THAT BLINDING SHAFT OF LIGHT! IT APPEARED IN FRONT OF US-- FROM OUT OF NOWHERE! WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR?

OOOPS! WATCH THE KNEE THERE, WARRY BOY!

I'M--NOT SURE! BUT, IT'S SURROUNDED BY SOME SORT OF FORCE FIELD--TOSsing THE PLANE ABOUT AS IF IT WERE A FEATHER!

WHAT AN UNGRACEFUL POSE FOR THE AGILE BEAST TO ASSUME! SOMETHING IS OBVIOUSLY AMISS!

IT MUST BE THE WORK OF... LUCIFER!

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EXHILARATING INKING BY DICK AYLES
EXASPERATING LETTERING BY ARTIE SIMEK

HAVING PIN-POINTED THE LOCATION OF HIS MYSTERIOUS FOE FOR THE SINISTER LUCIFER, PROFESSOR XAVIER AND HIS SUPER-POWERED PROTEGES ARE RAPIDLY APPROACHING HIS DESERT CITADEL-- WHEN, WITHOUT WARNING, A BEAM OF PULSATING LIGHT MATERIALIZES DIRECTLY IN THEIR PATH! BUT, IF YOU WANNA KNOW ANY MORE, YOU'VE GOTTA LEARN IT THE HARD WAY! READ ON, TIGER...

THE NEXT MOMENT, AS THE PROFESSOR REGAINS CONTROL OF THE SMALL PRIVATE CRAFT, A NEW AND EVEN MORE STARTLING PHENOMENON GREET'S THE EYES OF THE STUNNED MUTANTS...

LOOK! THAT BEAM SEEMS TO BE EMANATING FROM AN OPENING IN THE SKY ITSELF!

AND THAT'S NOT ALL! LOOK!

INSIDE THE SHAFT -- MOVING AT INCREDIBLE SPEED -- SOME KIND OF MASSIVE SHAPES, STREAKING DOWN TOWARDS THAT BUTTE! WHAT CAN THEY BE?

BUT, NOT EVEN THE TRAINED MINDS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY X-MEN, UNDAUNTED BY THE DIREST OF THREATS, CAN HOPE TO FORESEE THE ULTIMATE, MIND-STAGGERING MENACE WHICH THESE OMINOUS FORMS PORTEND!

I HAVE NO IDEA OF THE EXACT NATURE OF THOSE SHAPES, BOBBY! BUT, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THEY ARE RELATED TO THE THREAT WHICH THE EVIL LUCIFER PPOSES TO ALL MANKIND!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, PROFESSOR? GO DOWN AND INVESTIGATE?

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, ANGEL! BUT FIRST -- DAWN IS BREAKING, AND I WANT TO OBSERVE THIS AREA BY SUNLIGHT BEFORE LANDING!

FOR, WE ARE NOW PREPARING TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY IN HIS OWN LAIR -- AND IT IS ALWAYS THERE THAT HE IS MOST DANGEROUS!

MEANWHILE, NEARBY OTHER EYES AS WELL HAVE WITNESSED THE AWESOME SIGHT!

THERE IT IS AGAIN... THAT SAME LIGHT WE SAW LAST NIGHT!

SOMEHOW I HAD ME A HUNCH THAT WASN'T THE LAST WE'D SEE OF IT!

WHAT CAN IT BE, MR. MACK? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHIN' LIKE IT BEFORE!

I DON'T KNOW, SMITH -- BUT I SURE INTEND TO FIND OUT! C'MON, LET'S GO!

PORTER MACK
DUDE RANCH

CONSIDERIN' THE LACK OF ROADS NEAR BUCHANAN'S BUTTE, WHERE THE LIGHT CAME FROM, THESE HORSES'LL DO US A LOT MORE GOOD THAN THE STATION WAGON!

AND WE'RE NOT COMIN' BACK TILL WE GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS! A THING LIKE THIS COULD DRIVE ALL THE CUSTOMERS AWAY FROM MY DUDE RANCH!

WE'RE WITH YUH ALL THE WAY, MR. MACK!

I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHO'S USIN' THOSE PHONY SCIENCE-FICTION GIMMICKS ON MY PROPERTY!

BUT, WHILE THE ANGRY DUDE RANCHER WORRIES ABOUT POSSIBLE LOSS OF BUSINESS, THE NEARBY X-MEN HAVE A FAR MORE CRUCIAL PROBLEM AT HAND...

THE SHAFT OF LIGHT--IT VANISHED, JUST AS THE FIRST RAYS OF DAWN APPEARED! THERE'S JUST A WISP OF SMOKE COMING FROM THE TOP OF THAT BUTTE NOW!

THOSE ARE OPALESCENT GASES, JEAN! THEY ARE INTENDED, I SUSPECT, TO SHIELD SOMETHING BENEATH THEM FROM DETECTION FROM THE AIR!

THEREFORE, WE MUST DROP LOWER FOR A CLOSER VIEW!

Y'KNOW, I'M ALMOST BEGINNIN' TO THINK THAT OUR OLD BUDDY DOESN'T WANT US TO FIND HIM!

ON OCCASION, MY SNOWBOUND SIDEKICK, YOUR FRIGIDITY IS EQUALLED ONLY BY YOUR PERSPICACITY!

BUT, PROFESSOR, ARE YOU POSITIVE YOUR BEAM-DISTORTER HELMET WILL ADEQUATELY SHIELD YOU FROM POSSIBLE MENTAL ATTACK BY LUCIFER?

I MUST TAKE THAT CHANCE, HANK! LUCIFER MUST BE STOPPED!

PROFESSOR! I THINK I SEE OUR TICKET INTO LUCIFER'S HIDEOUT-- DIRECTLY BELOW!

YES, CYCLOPS-- I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT!

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING BELOW-- EXCEPT A RIVER!

SUDDENLY...

YEEESH! WHAT WAS THAT?

ERUPTING GEYSERS OF TREMENDOUS FORCE --AND MAN-MADE, I'M CERTAIN!

FOOSH! FOOSH! FOOSH!

FOOSH! FOOSH! FOOSH!

IF EITHER OF THEM HAD STRUCK THE PLANE DIRECTLY, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED!

PRECISELY, ANGEL! AND IT'S THAT VERY RIVER WHICH, AS SCOT OBSERVED, MAY HELP US SURPRISE OUR FOE!

NOW I GET IT! HE'D NEED A BIG WATER SUPPLY LIKE THAT RIVER TO OPERATE THOSE GEYSERS!

NOTE HOW THE WATER BELOW FLOWS TOWARDS THE BUTTE--AND, NOT FAR FROM IT, DISAPPEARS UNDERGROUND!

CORRECT! AND SO, WE MAY BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM UNAWARES BY FOLLOWING THAT RIVER WHEN IT GOES UNDERGROUND--AND INTO THE VERY CITADEL OF LUCIFER!

AUTOMATIC PILOT ON! PREPARE FOR HOVERCRAFT LOWERING!

THEN...

I'LL SAY THIS, PROFESSOR! THIS NEW GO-BUGGY IS EVEN NIFTIER THAN MY SPORTS CAR!

BEASTIE BOY, DID YOU EVER NOTICE THE TINY SIGNS OF MATERIALISM IN WARREN'S CHARACTER?

JEAN--YOU'VE BEEN SO SILENT! IS ANYTHING WRONG?

BE KIND, LAD! BESIDES, YOU'RE BEGINNING TO SOUND LIKE ME!

WHY NO-- OF COURSE NOT!

HE NEVER PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO ME-- UNLESS HE THINKS THERE'S SOMETHING WRONGS!

QUIET, EVERYONE! WE'RE LANDING NOW!

SECONDS LATER, ON A PLATEAU ABOVE THE TURBULENT RIVER...

FROM HERE ON, YOU WILL HAVE TO CARRY ON WITHOUT ME! HOWEVER, I'LL BE FOLLOWING YOUR EVERY MOVE BY MENTAL TELEPATHY!

WE'LL TRY NOT TO LET YOU DOWN, SIR!

WE MUST CAPTURE LUCIFER --TO CLEAR OUR OWN NAMES!

YES, WARREN! BUT, UNLESS I'M GREATLY MISTAKEN, THERE IS MUCH, MUCH MORE AT STAKE THAN MERELY THE REPUTATION OF THE X-MEN! SO-- BE CAREFUL!

I ASSURE YOU, SIR, ALL DUE CAUTION WILL BE EXERCISED!

WELL, BOBBY-- SHALL WE?

AFTER YOU, TWINKLE-TOES!

*LAST ISH, LUCIFER HAD LINUS AND THE BLOB FRAME OUR HAPLESS HEROES, REMEMBER? --FORGET-ME-NOT STAN!



WHILE YOU FLY, I'LL SCOUT AROUND ABOVE!

GANGWAY, ALL! THE ICEMAN COMETH!

MY TELEKINETIC POWERS WILL LOWER ME!

WATCH IT, BEAST! YOU MIGHT FALL AND HURT YOURSELF!

YOU CLIMB DOWN YOUR WAY, AND I'LL SCRAMBLE DOWN MINE!

TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE, CYCLOPS!



THEN, AS HE SWOOPS THROUGH THE CRISP MORNING AIR, THE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL SPIES...

OH OH! WHAT'S THIS? A RECEPTION COMMITTEE FROM LUCIFER?

AND YET--THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE THE TYPE OF GUYS THAT HE'D HANG AROUND WITH!

HEADS UP! IT'S ONE OF THE X-MEN!



I HEARD ON THE RADIO WHERE THEY'RE WANTED, BACK EAST!

GIVE 'M A BLAST! MAYBE THERE'S A REWARD!

OH, GREAT! LOOKS LIKE IT'S OPEN SEASON ON MUTANTS AGAIN! I'D BETTER WARN THE OTHERS!

KRAK!

SCARE 'M DOWN, YOU FOOLS! HURRY!

WE-- CAN'T, BOSS! HE'S TOO FAST!



THE NEXT MOMENT, AS THE REWARD-HUNNY HORSEMEN ROUND A BEND IN THE CANYON...

IT'S THE ANGEL-- HE'S WARNIN' HIS PALS!

MARVEL GIRL! BEAST! LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!

BUT HE'S TOO LATE-- 'CAUSE I'VE GOT THE DROP ON 'EM!

HANDS UP, YOU TWO!

BUT--WHO ARE YOU? AND WHY--?

THERE ARE TIMES, LADY, WHEN QUESTIONS HAD BEST BE PRECEDED BY ACTION--AND I THINK THIS IS JUST SUCH AN OCCASION!



I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, BEAST! STILL, I WISH I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON!

THERE! THAT OUGHT TO KEEP YOU OUT OF MISCHIEF FOR A SECOND!

WH--? CAN'T SEE!

WHAT ARE THE REST OF YOU MISERABLE COYOTES DOIN'? GRAB 'EM! WHAT DO I PAY YOU FOR, ANYWAY?



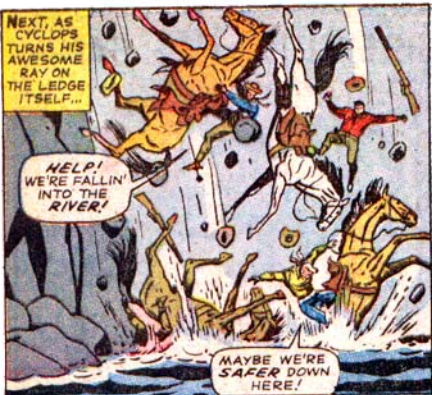
SORRY, MISTER! YOUR MEN WOULD LIKE 'M HELP YOU OUT, BUT THEY'VE GOT OTHER THINGS ON THEIR MINDS JUST NOW!

NOW, SUPPOSE THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU CALM DOWN FOR A SECOND, AND TELL US WHAT THIS'S ALL ABOUT.

FRAP!

DUCK! HE'S SPLATTERIN' ROCKS AT US!

NEXT, AS CYCLOPS TURNS HIS AWESOME RAY ON THE LEDGE ITSELF...



HELP! WE'RE FALLIN' INTO THE RIVER!

MAYBE WE'RE SAFER DOWN HERE!

WAIT! WHERE'RE YOU NO-GOODS GOIN'? COME BACK!

SORRY, MR. MACK, BUT WE GOT US SOME BUSINESS BACK IN TOWN!

SO--YER RUNNIN' OUT ON ME, EH? YER FIRED, THE WHOLE BUNCA' VA!



THAT'S OKAY WITH US! AT LEAST, WE'RE STILL AROUND TO COLLECT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE!

THEN, AS THE WATER-LOGGED WESTERNERS PULL THEMSELVES ASHORE...

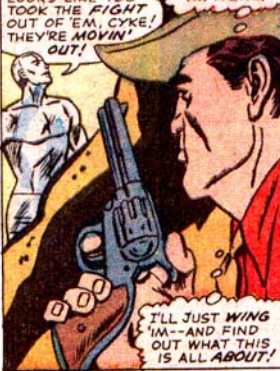


LET 'EM GO! WHO NEEDS 'EM? I DIDN'T WIN THE BLUE VALLEY SHARP-SHOOTIN' CONTEST FOR NOTHIN'!

I'LL TAKE CARE 'A THOSE BLASTED MUTIES BY MYSELF!

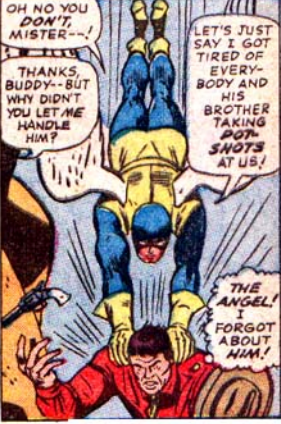
IN FACT, I THINK I'M ABOUT TO GET MY CHANCE RIGHT NOW!

WHAT A BREAK! THERE'S THE ONE CALLED ICEMAN--AND HE DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW I'M HERE!



LOOKS LIKE YOU TOOK THE FIGHT OUT OF 'EM, CYKE! THEY'RE MOVIN' OUT!

I'LL JUST WING 'IM--AND FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

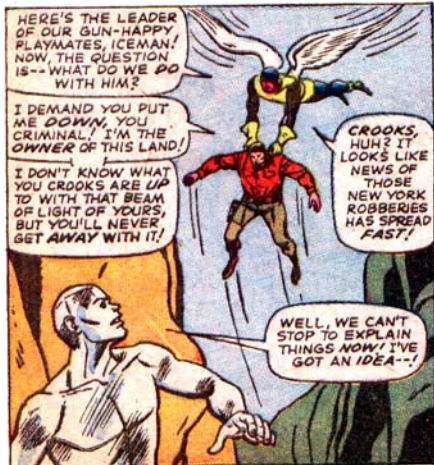


OH NO YOU DON'T, MISTER--!

THANKS, BUDDY--BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME HANDLE HIM?

LET'S JUST SAY I GOT TIRED OF EVERYBODY AND HIS BROTHER TAKING S&P SHOTS AT US!

THE ANGEL! I FORGOT ABOUT HIM!



HERE'S THE LEADER OF OUR GUN-HAPPY PLAYMATES, ICEMAN! NOW, THE QUESTION IS--WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?

I DEMAND YOU PUT ME DOWN, YOU CRIMINAL! I'M THE OWNER OF THIS LAND!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU CROOKS ARE UP TO WITH THAT BEAM OF LIGHT OF YOURS, BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!

CROOKS, HUH? IT LOOKS LIKE NEWS OF THOSE NEW YORK ROBBERIES HAS SPREAD FAST!

WELL, WE CAN'T STOP TO EXPLAIN THINGS NOW! I'VE GOT AN IDEA--!



THERE! I'M SURE THE HORSE KNOWS THE WAY HOME--AND, BY THE TIME YOU GET THERE, THE ICE WILL BE MELTED!

HOW'LL I EVER EXPLAIN THIS TO THE BOYS BACK AT THE DUDE RANCH?

MEANWHILE, WE'LL BE TRYING TO SAVE YOUR SAND-COVERED SPREAD--AND MAYBE ALL OF MANKIND, TO BOOT!

THEN, THE TIME-CONSUMING INTERLUDE WITH THE HOT-TEMPERED DUDE-RANCHER ENDED, THE MARVELOUS MUTANTS SET TO WORK IN EARNEST...

THIS ICE RAFT YOU'RE FORMING, BOBBY, WILL CARRY US RIGHT INTO THE STRONGHOLD OF LUCIFER!

FINE! I CAN'T WAIT TO TACKLE THAT BEARDED BUM AGAIN!

PATIENCE, LAD! I HAVE A PREMONITION THAT YOU'LL GET YOUR WISH!

I ONLY HOPE THE PROFESSOR IS ALL RIGHT! I HATED LEAVING HIM BEHIND!

OKAY, GROUP--IT'S READY! NOW TO RELAX AND LET THE RIVER DO THE REST!

HURRY, ALL OF YOU! WE'LL BE DRIFTING INTO THE SWIFT CURRENT IN A SECOND!

COMING, FEARLESS LEADER!

WHAAA! SCARCELY MY CONCEPTION OF A LUXURY CRUISER, BUT THIS IS NO TIME TO BE FASTIDIOUS!

MOMENTS LATER, THE SURGING WATERS THEMSELVES BEAR THE COURAGEOUS X-MEN DOWNSTREAM...

YOU KNOW, I'D FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER ABOUT THIS WHOLE MISSION IF WE HAD SOME KIND OF IDEA ABOUT WHAT LUCIFER IS UP TO!

SO WOULD WE ALL, ANGEL! BUT, WHATEVER HIS SCHEME, WE ARE SWORN TO COMBAT IT!

FAR BE IT FROM THE HUMBLE BEAST TO INTERRUPT YOUR RHETORICAL REFLECTIONS, BUT WE SEEM TO BE APPROACHING THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERGROUND SEGMENT OF THE RIVER!

BUT, BEFORE THE STARTLED TEEN-AGERS CAN ACT... DISASTER!

A MONSTROUS WHIRLPOOL! IT APPEARED WITHOUT WARNING!--PULLING US DOWN!

THE RAFT--IT'S BREAKING UP!

IT'S LUCIFER! HE KNOWS WE'RE HERE--AND HE'S TRYING TO DESTROY US!

A MOST SAGACIOUS DEDUCTION, MY FEATHERED FRIEND! THE MIND POSITIVELY BOGGLES AT YOUR PRODIGIOUS POWERS OF PERCEPTION!

TRY TO STAY TOGETHER! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

NOW, IF YOU'LL ADVISE US HOW TO ESCAPE, WE'LL ALL VOTE FOR YOU FOR CLASS PRESIDENT!

DON'T FRET, MARVELITE! WE'LL PICK UP ON OUR MERRY, MISTREATED MUTANTS BEFORE YOU CAN SPELL IRVING FORBUSH! BUT, MEANWHILE, WHAT OF PROFESSOR X, WHO WAITS ANXIOUSLY ABOVE FOR SOME WORD OF SUCCESS...OR FAILURE?

THAT'S STRANGE--I LOST TELEPATHIC CONTACT WITH THEM WHEN THEY ENTERED THAT UNDERGROUND TUNNEL!

IT'S ALMOST AS IF SOME FANTASTICALLY POTENT FORCE SUDDENLY ERECTED A MENTAL BARRIER BETWEEN US! I MUST PIERCE IT--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

THUS, COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN INTENSE CONCENTRATION, XAVIER FAILS TO DETECT TWO MASSIVE, INHUMAN FIGURES APPROACHING BEHIND HIM...



ATTENTION, X-MEN! REPORT AT ONCE! DO YOU READ ME?

IT'S NO USE! I'M TOO FAR AWAY TO CONTACT THEM--!

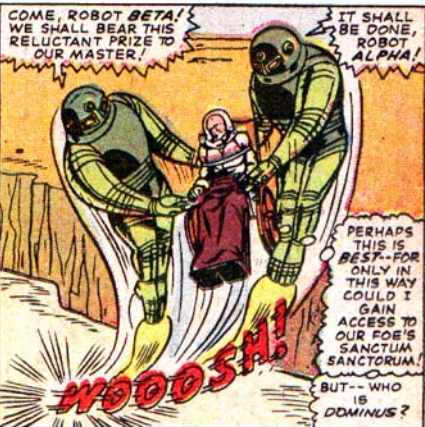
THE NEXT INSTANT...

ROBOTS! THEY'VE BOUND ME WITH SOME SORT OF METAL BAND! I CAN'T BREAK FREE--!

AND--THEY'RE IMMUNE TO MY MENTAL BLASTS, THEN--I'M DEFENSELESS!

SNAPP!

OF COURSE! DID YOU HOPE TO CHALLENGE THE POWER OF DOMINUS?



COME, ROBOT BETA! WE SHALL BEAR THIS RELUCTANT PRIZE TO OUR MASTER!

IT SHALL BE DONE, ROBOT ALPHA!

PERHAPS THIS IS BEST--FOR ONLY IN THIS WAY COULD I GAIN ACCESS TO OUR FOE'S SANCTUARY! BUT--WHO IS DOMINUS?

WOOSH!

WE HAVE CAPTURED THE FIRST OF THE ONE GROUP WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER OUR PLANS. SOON, WE SHALL ENSNARE THE OTHERS AS WELL!

THEN, THEY ARE STILL FREE! PERHAPS THEY WILL BE ABLE TO FATHOM LUCIFER'S MASTER PLAN--AND STOP HIM WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME!

FOR, WHILE THE BREATH OF LIFE REMAINS IN ONE X-MAN, LUCIFER WILL NEVER BE FREE TO PERPETRATE NEW EVIL!

BUT, BELOW, IN CAVERNS MEASURELESS TO MAN*, AN EXULTANT LUCIFER SEES THINGS QUITE DIFFERENTLY...

NOW, WITH MY MOST FORMIDABLE FOE A HELPLESS CAPTIVE, THERE REMAINS ONLY TO DISPOSE OF HIS MIDDLE-SOME TEENAGE ALLIES! THEN--THE VICTORY IS OURS!

BUT FIRST, I MUST HASTEN TO THE MAIN CHAMBER TO GREET MY UNPLACABLE ENEMY--SO THAT I MAY FULLY RELISH MY LONG-AWAITED VICTORY!

*WHO SAYS THIS ISN'T THE MARVEL AGE OF QUALITY QUOTATIONS?
--COLERIDGE--BUFF STAN.



AND, PRECISELY THIRTY SECONDS LATER, THE TWO DETERMINED ENEMIES ONCE AGAIN MEET, FACE TO FACE--AS THE FATE OF THE EARTH ITSELF HANGS PRECARIOUSLY IN THE BALANCE...

HERE, MASTER, IS THE EARTHLING YOU SENT US AFTER! DO YOU WISH US TO--DISPOSE OF HIM...*FOREVER?*

NO--FOR, I HAVE WAITED TOO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT TO COME--THE MOMENT WHEN HE WHO FOILED MY FIRST ATTEMPTS AT CONQUEST ON THIS PUNY PLANET NOW STANDS BEFORE ME IN ABJECT DEFEAT!

LOOK AROUND YOU, XAVIER! BEHOLD THE AWESOME, TOTALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE MACHINE KNOWN AS...*DOMINUS!* FOR, WITH THIS ULTRA-COMPLEX MECHANISM, I SHALL ENSLAVE YOUR ENTIRE WORLD!

DON'T BE TOO CERTAIN OF THAT! REMEMBER... THERE ARE OTHERS WHO KNOW OF YOUR INSANE PLAN--MY X-MEN WILL STOP YOU IN YOUR TRACKS!

WILL THEY? I THINK NOT! REGARD THE LARGE VISI-SCREEN ON MY LEFT--AND SEE HOW INEFFECTUAL YOUR VAUNTED X-MEN ARE AGAINST THE POWER OF...*LUCIFER!*

THEN OBSERVING THE SCREEN INDICATED BY HIS GLOATING CAPTOR, THE PROFESSOR SEES...

I'M SAFE! LUCKILY, MY WINGS ENABLED ME TO BREAK THE WHIRLPOOL'S GRIP!

BUT--WHAT OF MARVEL GIRL AND THE REST? I CAN'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO THEM--THEY'RE STILL DOWN BELOW!

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE CHOICE FOR AN X-MAN! I MUST GO BACK!

NO MATTER WHAT DANGER LURKS BENEATH THESE SWIRLING WATERS, WE'LL FACE IT--TOGETHER!

A SINGLE, MIND-RENDING SECOND THAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY--AND THEN...

MADE IT! I'M UNDER THE WHIRLPOOL--IN A HUGE SUBTERRANEAN CAVERN! FROM THE LOOKS OF ALL THESE PIPES, THIS MUST BE LUCIFER'S HEADQUARTERS!

AND--THERE'S MARVEL GIRL AND CYCLOPS!

HURRY ANGEL! I--CAN'T HOLD ON--MUCH LONGER!

THERE YOU ARE--A LITTLE DAMP BUT STILL INTACT! BUT, WHAT ABOUT ICEMAN AND THE BEAST?

THEY MUST'VE COME UP ELSEWHERE IN THIS CAVE, WE'VE GOT TO FIND THEM!

WAIT A MINUTE, BOTH OF YOU!

THERE'S SOME SORT OF OPENING RIGHT OVER THERE!

YEAH, I SEE IT, TOO! COULD IT BE THAT OUR MISSING BUDDIES GOT THERE AHEAD OF US? IT'S WORTH A LOOK--SEE, ANYWAY!

C'MON, CYKE--I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT!

I ONLY PRAY THAT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO THEM!

IF THEY'VE BEEN HARMED, JEAN, THERE'S NO POWER OF EARTH THAT WILL PROTECT LUCIFER FROM US!

HOWEVER, AS THE GRIM TRIO SET FOOT UPON THE UNDERGROUND LANDING...

IT'S A TRAP! SOME SORT OF TRANSPARENT CAGE IS CLOSING ABOUT US!

QUICK, MARVEL GIRL! USE YOUR TELEKINETIC POWER TO FORCE THE WALLS BACK!

I--CAN'T! THE FORCE BEHIND THEM IS TOO GREAT! WE'RE CAUGHT!

THEN, ABRUPTLY, OUR SCENE SWITCHES TO WHERE THE BULKY HANK MCCOY PLOWS DESPERATELY THRU THE MURKY WATERS...

MY LUNGS ARE BURSTING! THE VORTEX OF THE WHIRL POOL HURLED ME DOWN TO THE VERY BOTTOM OF THIS RIVER!

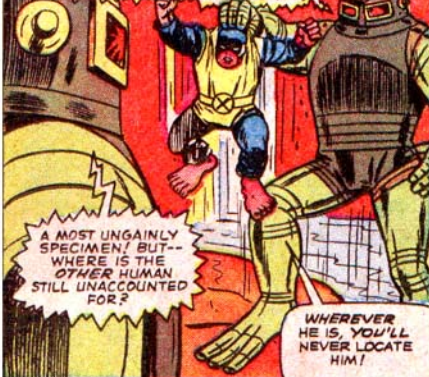
I MUST SURFACE SOON--OR IT'S BYE-BYE BEASTIE!

A MOMENT LATER, THE ANTHROPOID X-MAN'S URGENT WISH IS GRANTED--OR IS IT?

SPUTTER-- MANY THANKS, FRIEND, FOR LENDING THE IMPERILED BEAST A HELPING HAND!

BUT--WHAT A HAND! I STRONGLY SUSPECT I HAVE GONE FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE BLAST FURNACE!

HERE IS ONE OF THE REMAINING MUTANTS, ROBOT GAMMA--THE ONE KNOWN AS THE BEAST!



A MOST UNGAINLY SPECIMEN! BUT--WHERE IS THE OTHER HUMAN STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR?

WHEREVER HE IS, YOU'LL NEVER LOCATE HIM!

AND, EVEN AS HANK STRUGGLES VAINLY TO FREE HIMSELF, THE FIFTH X-MAN ENTERS THE FRAY...

GOT TO HIT THAT OVER-SIZED GARBAGE PAIL WITH AN ICY SURF-BOARD AT FULL SPEED!

OTHERWISE, THE BEAST AND I ARE BOTH IN HOT WATER!



I DID IT! THE IMPACT SENT THE ROBOT SPRAWLING!

BUT, WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ONE?



KRAACK!

MANY THANKS, ROBERT, YOUR ARRIVAL WAS MOST PRODIGIOUS, INDEED!

ALLOW ME TO ATTEND TO OUR OTHER CLANKING COMPEER, IF YOU WILL!

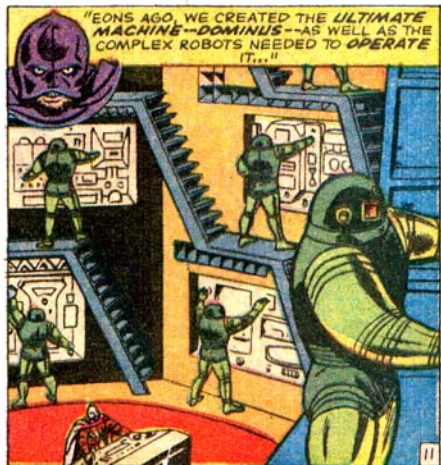
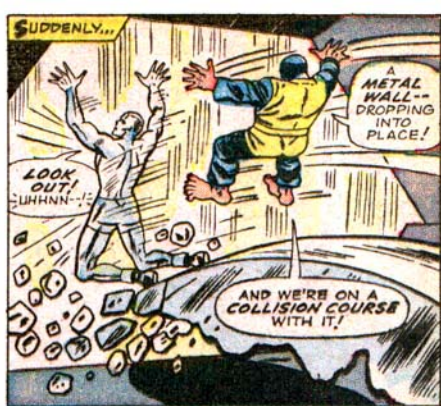
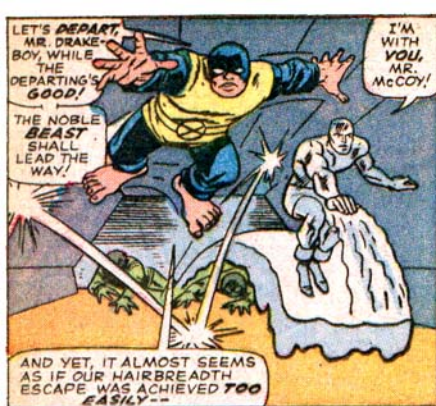
THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL--IF YOU'LL FORGIVE THE CAPRICIOUS CLICHE!

UHHH--!

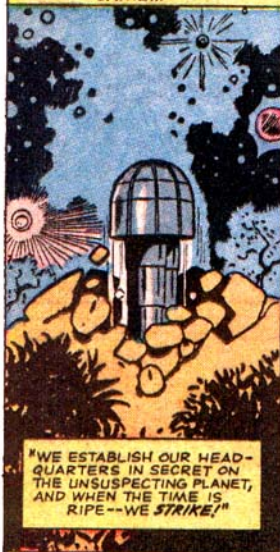


I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT! RIGHT NOW, LET'S MAKE OURSELVES SCARCE, PAL!

AS ALWAYS, LAD, OUR MINDS ARE KINDRED SPIRITS! LET'S RETREAT, INDEED!

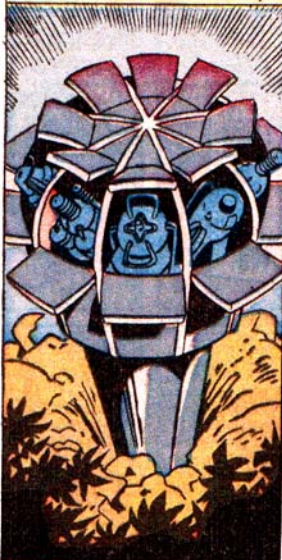


"AND, WHILE YOUR EARTH WAS STILL A MASS OF FLOATING GASES, WE BEGAN TO EXTEND SWAY TO NEARBY WORLDS! ALWAYS THE PATTERN IS THE SAME..."



"WE ESTABLISH OUR HEAD-QUARTERS IN SECRET ON THE UNSUSPECTING PLANET, AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE--WE STRIKE!"

"SOON, YOUR WORLD--LIKE SO MANY BEFORE IT--SHALL BE BLANKETED BY RAYS DESIGNED TO TAKE AWAY THE INDEPENDENT WILL OF EVERYONE ON EARTH!"



IT WAS FOR THIS EXPRESS PURPOSE THAT THE IRRESISTIBLE MACHINE WHICH WE CALL **DOMINUS**--AS WELL AS THE INDISPENSABLE ROBOTS WHICH ALONE CAN OPERATE IT--WERE TELEPORTED TO EARTH THRU BEAMS OF IONIC LIGHT!

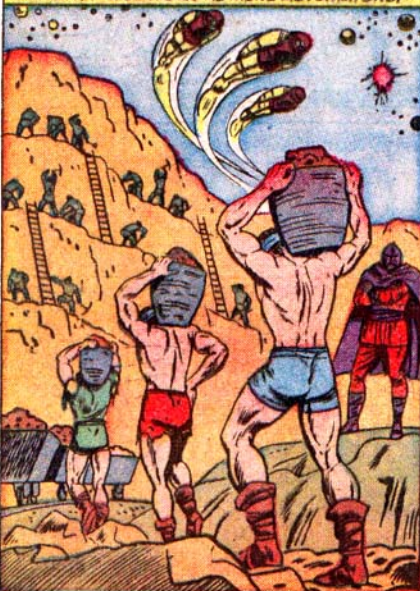
EVEN NOW, THE ROBOTS MAKE THE FINAL PREPARATIONS! SOON, YOU WILL WITNESS THE END OF MANKIND'S RULE ON EARTH!



"YOU'RE INSANE! NO MERE MACHINE CAN POSSESS SUCH AWESOME POWER!"

"YOU STILL DO NOT BELIEVE? THEN, WATCH THIS SCREEN--AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!"

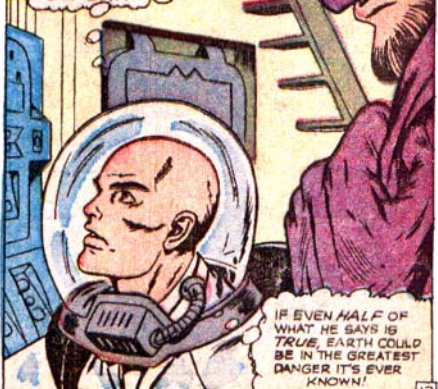
"BEHOLD THE SCENE OF OUR LAST CONQUEST--A PLANET OF THE STAR **SIRIUS**, ONCE IT BOASTED A GREAT AND ADVANCED CIVILIZATION--NOW, ITS INHABITANTS SERVE US AS MERE **AUTOMATONS**!"



AND SO, WITH THAT ONCE-MIGHTY RACE NOW REDUCED TO SERVILE SLAVERY, **DOMINUS** HAS BEEN SENT **HERE**! SOON, YOUR PUNY SPHERE SHALL SHARE THE FATE OF COUNT-LESS WORLDS BEFORE IT!

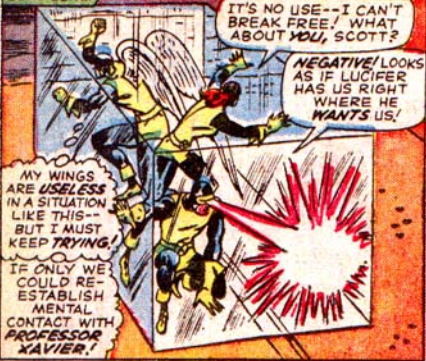
THUS IT SHALL EVER BE! FOR, IT IS OUR DESTINY TO **COMMAND**!

SO THIS IS THE MAD PLAN OF CONQUEST BEGUN A DECADE AGO--AND WHICH I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN I WAS DESTINED TO **COMBAT**!



IF EVEN HALF OF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE, EARTH COULD BE IN THE GREATEST DANGER IT'S EVER KNOWN!

WHILE, ELSEWHERE IN THE VAST UNDERGROUND COMPLEX...



IT'S NO USE--I CAN'T BREAK FREE! WHAT ABOUT YOU, SCOTT?

NEGATIVE! LOOKS AS IF LUCIFER HAS US RIGHT WHERE HE WANTS US!

MY WINGS ARE USELESS IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS-- BUT I MUST KEEP TRYING!

IF ONLY WE COULD RE-ESTABLISH MENTAL CONTACT WITH PROFESSOR XAVIER!

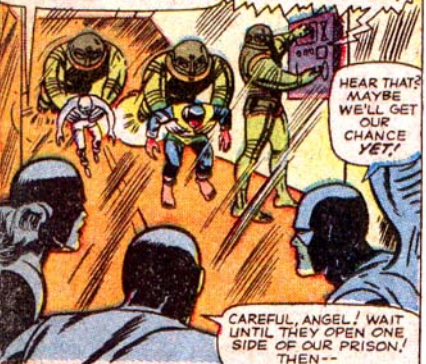
CYCLOPS, WHAT OF ICEMAN AND THE BEAST? WE HAVEN'T SEEN THEM SINCE WE WERE SEPARATED BY THAT MAN-MADE WHIRLPOOL!



WAIT! SOMEONE'S APPROACHING-- FAST!

MAY BE!

IT'S BOBBY--AND HANK! BUT THEY'VE BEEN CAPTURED BY GIANT ROBOTS! WHAT ON EARTH--?



PUT THESE MORTALS INTO THE COSMIC-CRYSTALLINE CUBE WITH THE OTHERS!

HEAR THAT? MAYBE WE'LL GET OUR CHANCE YET!

CAREFUL, ANGEL! WAIT UNTIL THEY OPEN ONE SIDE OF OUR PRISON, THEN--

BUT, BEFORE THE X-MEN'S DEPUTY LEADER CAN FINISH...



UNHINN!-- WE'RE BEING HURLED BACKWARDS!

IT'S SOME SORT OF INVISIBLE--ACTIVATED AUTOMATICALLY AS THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE CUBE OPENS!

WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! THEY'RE ONLY TOYING WITH US!

NOW TO--HOLD! WE ARE RECEIVING A MENTAL CALL FROM LUCIFER! HE DEMANDS OUR PRESENCE AT ONCE!



WE SHALL DEAL WITH THESE LATER!

THEY'RE TREATING US AS IF WE WERE MERE CAGED ANIMALS--TO BE DEALT WITH AT THEIR LEISURE!

PERHAPS THAT'S ALL WE ARE--TO THEM!

I ONLY HOPE THAT THE BEAST AND ICEMAN ARE ALL RIGHT! PERHAPS TOGETHER WE CAN MANAGE TO ESCAPE!

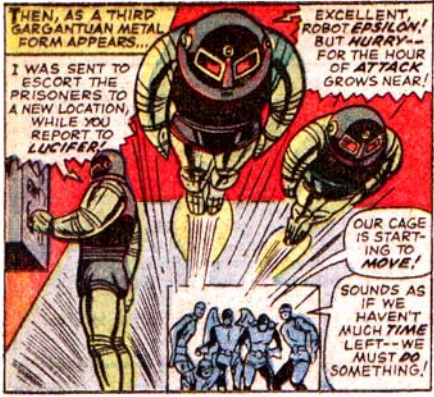
THEY SEEM TO BE UNHURT--ONLY DAZED! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU TWO?



I'M NOT SURE, BUT I FEEL LIKE THE LINCOLN TUNNEL COLLAPSED ON ME!

MY SENSATIONS PRECISELY, MY COLLOQUIAL COLLEAGUE!

LOOK ALIVE, X-MEN! IT WOULD APPEAR WE'RE ABOUT TO GO ON A LITTLE TRIP!



THEN, AS A THIRD GARGANTUAN METAL FORM APPEARS...

I WAS SENT TO ESCORT THE PRISONERS TO A NEW LOCATION, WHILE YOU REPORT TO LUCIFER!

EXCELLENT, ROBOT ERSILON! BUT HURRY-- FOR THE HOUR OF ATTACK GROWS NEAR!

OUR CAGE IS STARTING TO MOVE!

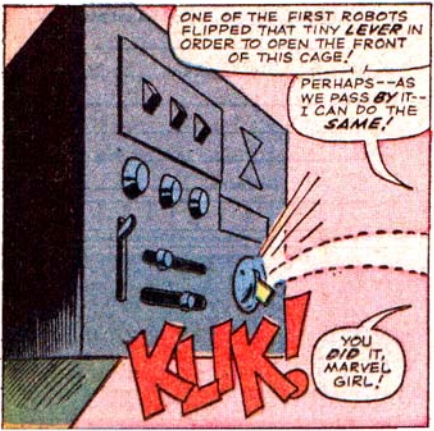
SOUNDS AS IF WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME LEFT--WE MUST DO SOMETHING!



JEANIE, GIRL, THE BEGINNINGS OF A PLAN ARE TAKING COGENT SHAPE IN MY CALCULATING CRANIUM!

COULD YOU PROJECT A MINISULE AMOUNT OF TELEKINETIC ENERGY THRU OUR GLASS CAGE?

I THINK I SEE WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND, HANK. I'LL...TRY!

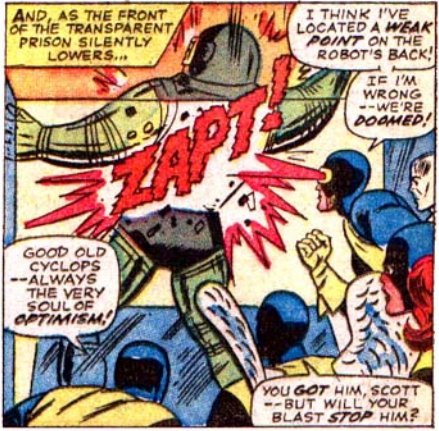


ONE OF THE FIRST ROBOTS FLIPPED THAT TINY LEVER IN ORDER TO OPEN THE FRONT OF THIS CAGE!

PERHAPS--AS WE PASS BY IT-- I CAN DO THE SAME!

KLIK!

YOU DID IT, MARVEL GIRL!



AND, AS THE FRONT OF THE TRANSPARENT PRISON SILENTLY LOWERS...

I THINK I'VE LOCATED A WEAK POINT ON THE ROBOT'S BACK!

IF I'M WRONG --WE'RE DOOMED!

GOOD OLD CYCLOPS --ALWAYS THE VERY SOUL OF OPTIMISM!

YOU GOT HIM, SCOTT --BUT WILL YOUR BLAST STOP HIM?



THE NEXT MOMENT, THE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL GETS HIS ANSWER, AS THE MONSTROUS CREATURE TOPPLES LIFELESSLY TO THE FLOOR...

HE'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT! YOU MUST HAVE SHORT-CIRCUITED HIM!

THIS IS NO TIME TO PAT OURSELVES ON THE BACK, WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE OF THESE THINGS ARE LURKING ABOUT?

ONE THING'S FOR SURE, CYKE--

A CHEERFUL CHARLIE YOU'RE NOT!

LISTEN! WE SEEM TO HAVE SOME SORT OF ALARM!



JUST OUR LUCK! KNOCKING OUT THAT TIN-CAN TERROR MUST'VE DONE IT!

YOU'RE RIGHT--AND I'VE A HUNCH THE REST OF THEM WON'T GIVE ME SUCH A CLEAN SHOT AT THEM!

WHATEVER THE REASON --WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW!

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S JUST ONE WAY WE CAN GO-- FORWARD, RIGHT INTO LUCIFER'S OWN HEAD-QUARTERS!

LET'S GO! THE BOUNCING BEAST SHALL LEAD THE WAY!

AND, IN THE CENTRAL CHAMBER, THE FATEFUL ALARM DOES NOT ESCAPE THE NOTICE OF AN ANGERED LUCIFER...

THAT IS THE SIGNAL THAT ONE OF YOUR FELLOW ROBOTS HAS BEEN DISABLED--DOUBTLESS BY THE INFERNAL X-MEN! GO--HUNT THEM DOWN--AND SHOW NO MERCY!

WE DO OBEY! THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE US!

EEEEEEEEE!

MUST KEEP PROBING--DEEPER--DEEPER! FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY HANGS IN THE BALANCE!

MEANWHILE, FIVE GRIM FIGURES--TENSE BUT UNAFRAID IN THE MIST OF MENACE--ARE APPROACHING EVER NEARER...

IT'S--FANTASTIC! WE SEEM TO BE WANDERING THRU ENDLESS CORRIDORS OF ULTRA-SCIENTIFIC MACHINERY!

ALL THAT'S MISSING IS BORIS KARLOFF!

HE MAY POP UP YET!

QUIET, EVERYBODY! TWO MORE ROBOTS--ZOOMING OUR WAY!

OUT OF SIGHT--QUICK!

SO, XAVIER--DO YOU PREFER TO PRETEND INDIFFERENCE TO THE FATE OF YOUR, PRECIOUS MUTANTS!

THEN, KNOW THIS--I SHALL NO LONGER BE CONTENT MERELY TO RECAPTURE THEM!

THE X-MEN MUST BE DESTROYED!

THEN, ALMOST BEFORE THE WARY X-MEN CAN TAKE COVER...

--WHW!!-- THOSE BABIES ARE TRAVELIN' LIKE THEY MEAN BUSINESS!

WHEN DO WE STOP HIDING--AND START FIGHTING?

A MOST GRIEVOUS UNDERSTATEMENT, MISTER DRAKE.

SOON, ANGEL-- BUT NOT YET!

ZOOOM!

X-MEN! THIS IS PROFESSOR XAVIER! YOU MUST GO AS I DIRECT--WITHOUT QUESTION! WITHOUT HESITATION!

TELEPATHIC THOUGHTS--FROM THE DRAG!

GREAT! NOW WE'LL SEE SOME ACTION! WAIT'LL I GET MY HANDS ON LUCIFER!

WAIT! LISTEN--THERE'S MORE!

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MUST YOU ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE THE GIGANTIC MECHANICAL COMPLEX WHICH IS CALLED... DOMINUS.

DOMINUS? SO THAT'S IT! THIS IMMENSE MACHINE ITSELF IS THE DANGER TO EARTH WE'RE PLEDGED TO DEFEAT, RATHER THAN THE ROBOTS!

CHECK, CYKE, OLD BOY! AND HERE'S A PASSAGE WHICH LOOKS LIKE IT LEADS TO THE VERY HEART OF THAT MACHINE! LET'S SCRAMBLE THRU IT AND DO SOME TUBE-SMASHING, WHILE WE'RE STILL GOT THE CHANCE!

NO, ANGEL--THAT'S JUST WHAT THE PROFESSOR SAID WE MUST DO! WE MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF PLAN--



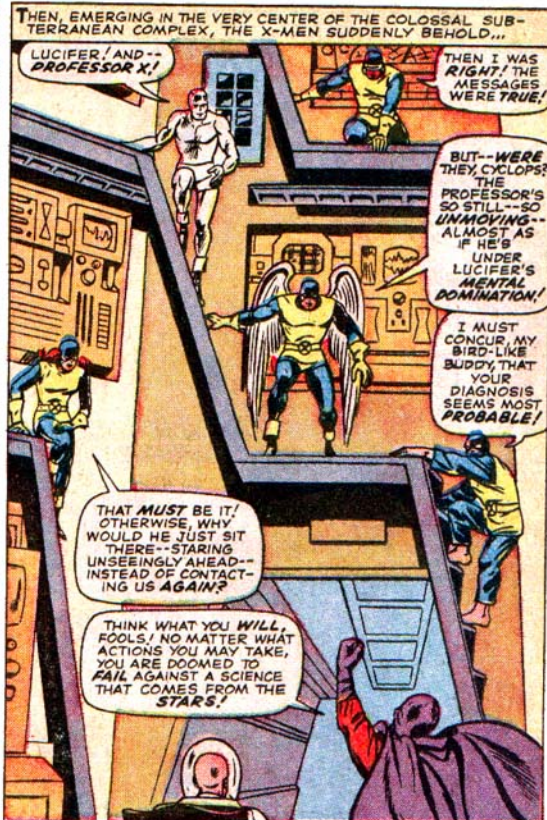
BUT, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT MENTAL COMMAND WAS FROM THE PROF? AFTER ALL, WE LEFT HIM ON THE SURFACE!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU, BUT THIS HIGH-FLYIN' BIRD IS GONNA HAVE A LOOK AT THE MENACE CALLED DOMINUS!

ANGEL! WAIT!

WARREN'S RIGHT, SCOTT! LUCIFER MIGHT BE SOMEHOW DUPLICATING THE PROFESSOR'S TELEPATHIC THOUGHTS!

ANYWAY, CYKE, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE THE CHANCE!



THEN, EMERGING IN THE VERY CENTER OF THE COLOSSAL SUB-TERRANEAN COMPLEX, THE X-MEN SUDDENLY BEHOLD...

LUCIFER! AND-- PROFESSOR X!

THEN I WAS RIGHT! THE MESSAGES WERE TRUE!

BUT--WERE THEY CYCLOPS? THE PROFESSOR'S SO STILL--SO UNMOVING--ALMOST AS IF HE'S UNDER LUCIFER'S MENTAL DOMINATION!

I MUST CONCUR, MY BIRD-LIKE BUDDY, THAT YOUR DIAGNOSIS SEEMS MOST PROBABLE!

THAT MUST BE IT! OTHERWISE, WHY WOULD HE JUST SIT THERE--STARING UNSEEINGLY AHEAD--INSTEAD OF CONTACTING US AGAIN?

THINK WHAT YOU WILL, FOOLS! NO MATTER WHAT ACTIONS YOU MAY TAKE, YOU ARE DOOMED TO FAIL AGAINST A SCIENCE THAT COMES FROM THE STARS!



DID YOU HEAR THAT? HE'S GOTTA BE REFERRING TO THIS MONSTROUS PIECE OF MACHINERY!

IT'S A TRICK, I TELL YOU! HE'S TRYING TO CONFUSE US--!

AND, IN YOUR CASE, HE SUCCEEDED, CHUM!

STILL WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? TIME IS SO SHORT!

AND GETTING SHORTER, FEMALE! LOOK--OUR ALIEN ANTAGONIST IS SCURRYING FOR A WEAPON!



OH NO YOU DON'T, LUCIFER! I'LL USE YOUR OWN CLOAK TO STOP YOU!

CURSE YOU, MARVEL GIRL! MY ROBOTS WILL YET DESTROY YOU ALL!

MAYBE--AND MAYBE NOT--I'LL KEEP YOU SO TANGLED IN YOUR CAPES THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CALL THEM!



AT THAT SAME INSTANT...

THAT FEARS IT! I'M RIPPING UP EVERYTHING I CAN BEFORE LUCIFER'S METALLIC ERRAND-BOYS SHOW UP!

NO--YOU CAN'T! THE PROFESSOR SAID THE RESULTS WOULD BE **DISASTROUS!**

BUT DISASTROUS FOR WHO--US, OR LUCIFER? SORRY, CYKE, BUT I'M WITH ANGEL THIS GO-ROUND!



THUS, BEFORE THE UNBELIEVING EYES OF HIS FELLOW X-MEN, THE DEPUTY LEADER FIRES ON THE FLYING FORM ABOVE...

UHHHHNN--!!

HE DID IT! CYCLOPS STOPPED THE ANGEL-- JUST BEFORE HE COULD REACH THOSE WIRES!



ANGEL--COME BACK!

DON'T FORCE ME TO STOP YOU!

NO USE! HE WON'T LISTEN! THEN-- I HAVE NO CHOICE--!



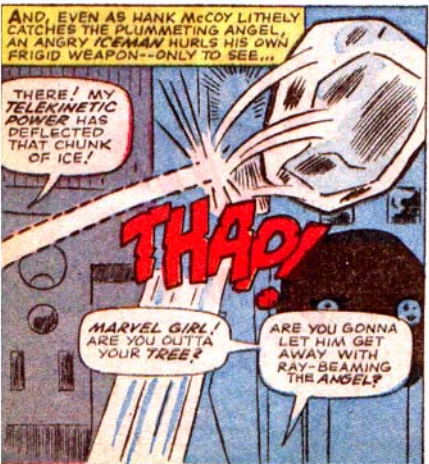
STUNNED--CAN'T FLY--!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO CYCLOPS--

BUT, HERE'S WHERE I KNOCK IT OUTTA HIM!

OH! I CAN'T SLOW HIM DOWN FAST ENOUGH!

NEVER FEAR--FOR THE BEAST IS HERE! BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, WE'LL BREAK HIS FALL!



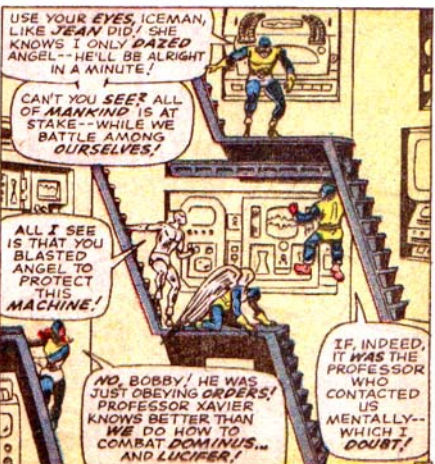
AND, EVEN AS HANK MCCOY LITHELY CATCHES THE PLUMMETING ANGEL, AN ANGRY ICEMAN HURLS HIS OWN FRIGID WEAPON--ONLY TO SEE...

THERE! MY TELEKINETIC POWER HAS REFLECTED THAT CHUNK OF ICE!

THAP!

MARVEL GIRL! ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR TREE?

ARE YOU GONNA LET HIM GET AWAY WITH RAY-BEAMING THE ANGEL?



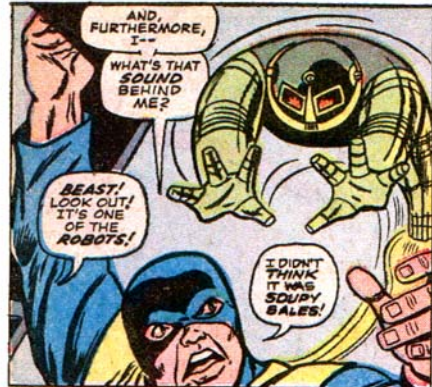
USE YOUR EYES, ICEMAN, LIKE JEAN DID! SHE KNOWS I ONLY DAZED ANGEL--HE'LL BE ALRIGHT IN A MINUTE!

CAN'T YOU SEE? ALL OF MANKIND IS AT STAKE--WHILE WE BATTLE AMONG OURSELVES!

ALL I SEE IS THAT YOU BLASTED ANGEL TO PROTECT THIS MACHINE!

NO, BOBBY! HE WAS JUST OBEYING ORDERS! PROFESSOR XAVIER KNOWS BETTER THAN WE DO HOW TO COMBAT DOMINUS... AND LUCIFER!

IF, INDEED, IT WAS THE PROFESSOR WHO CONTACTED US METALLI--WHICH I DOUBT!



I--CAN'T EXPLAIN THAT NOW, WARREN! THAT INTENSE ENERGY-BLAST LEFT ME WEAK, ALSO!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW SORRY I AM TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, CYKE--'CAUSE HERE COME THE REMAINING THREE ROBOTS--MOVIN' FAST!

QUICKLY, BOBBY-- A CURVED ICE SHIELD! IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE!

HURRY, ANGEL!

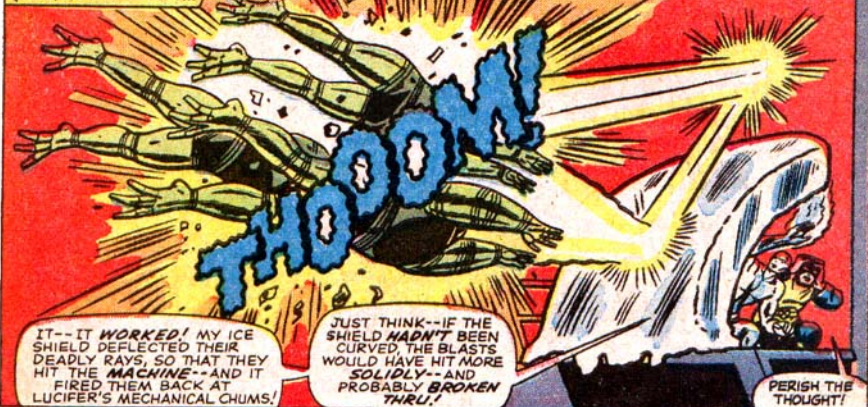
RIGHT! EVERYBODY ON THIS PLATFORM-- ON THE DOUBLE!

LOOK! THE ROBOTS-- THEY'RE FIRING SIMULTANEOUS RAYS AT US FROM THEIR FINGER-TIPS!

ZZZZZZ

LUCIFER COMMANDS US TO ATTACK WITH FULL FORCE! DESTROY-- DESTROY!!

THEN, ASTOUNDINGLY...



IT--IT WORKED! MY ICE SHIELD DEFLECTED THEIR DEADLY RAYS, SO THAT THEY HIT THE MACHINE--AND IT FIRED THEM BACK AT LUCIFER'S MECHANICAL CHUMS!

JUST THINK--IF THE SHIELD HADN'T BEEN CURVED, THE BLASTS WOULD HAVE HIT MORE SOLIDLY--AND PROBABLY BROKEN THRU!

PERISH THE THOUGHT!

BELOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CONFLICT BEGAN, PROFESSOR X SPEAKS...

YOUR ROBOTS ARE FINISHED, LUCIFER! YOUR SCHEME IS ENDED!

IT WAS YOUR DOING, XAVIER--YOU AND YOUR ACCURSED X-MEN! BUT, I SHALL YET LIVE TO HAVE MY REVENGE!

WAIT! THAT NOISE--THE SUPREME ONE CALLS!

BLEEP... BLEEP... BLEEP... BLEEP...

SLOWLY, HALTINGLY, LIKE A MAN IN A DREAM, THE DEFEATED ALIEN MOUNTS THE Dais BEFORE A GIANT SCREEN...

AGENT ONE-- WHY HAVE THE ACTI-SIGNALS FROM THE ROBOTS CEASED?

IT IS BECAUSE --THEY HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED, SUPREME ONE-- BY AN ADVANCED BAND OF EARTHLINGS!

I HAVE NO EXCUSES-- I ONLY ASK FOR MERCY AT YOUR HANDS!

MERCY? YOU DARE ASK MERCY AFTER SACRIFICING THE ULTRA-ROBOTS, WITHOUT WHICH DOMINUS IS USELESS-- WITHOUT WHICH OUR OTHER ENSLAVED WORLDS WILL RISE IN REVOLT?

THIS, THEN, SHALL BE YOUR FATE! YOU SHALL BE BANISHED TO A NAMELESS DIMENSION WHERE NEITHER TIME NOR SPACE EXISTS!

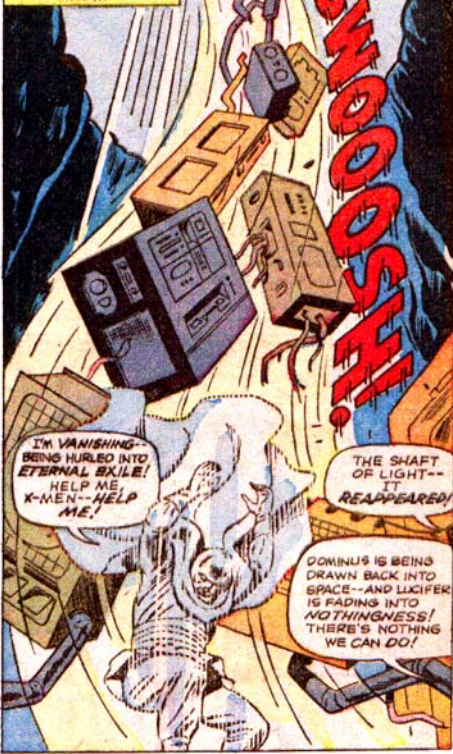


NO--NO! YOU CANNOT SENTENCE ME THUS--AFTER I HAVE GIVEN YOU CONQUESTS FOR COUNTLESS YEARS! YOU CANNOT--!

PROFESSOR-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WE WERE AFRAID--

YES, I AM FINE, HANK--BUT I'M AFRAID LUCIFER WON'T BE, IN A FEW SECONDS!

THE NEXT MOMENT, THERE IS A SUDDEN BLINDING GLARE-- A TUMULTUOUS RUSHING OF AIR-- AND...



SMOOSH!

I'M VANISHING-- BEING HURLED INTO ETERNAL EXILE! HELP ME X-MEN--HELP ME!

THE SHAFT OF LIGHT-- IT REAPPEARED!

DOMINUS IS BEING DRAWN BACK INTO SPACE--AND LUCIFER IS FADING INTO NOTHINGNESS! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!

THEN, AS THE BEAM, FADES AWAY, A WEARY PROFESSOR XAVIER ANSWERS THE UNSPOKEN QUESTIONS OF HIS WEARY CHARGES...

MY PROBING REVEALED THAT DOMINUS WOULD RESIST ALL YOUR EFFORTS TO DESTROY IT, HURLING BACK ANY FORCE USED AGAINST IT! THAT IS WHY I TOLD YOU TO CONCENTRATE ON THE ROBOTS, WHO WERE INDISPENSABLE TO ITS OPERATION!

MEANWHILE, I MANAGED TO PIERCE LUCIFER'S MENTAL SCREEN AT CLOSE RANGE, AND LED HIM TO COMMAND THE ROBOTS TOO RECKLESSLY!

THEN, THAT'S WHY YOU SEEMED SO DISTANT, AS IF YOU WERE UNDER HIS CONTROL!

CORRECT, ANGEL! I COULD NOT AFFORD TO RELAX MY WILL POWER LONG ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN THINGS FURTHER TO YOU!



AND SO...

WE SAVED THE CAUSE OF HUMAN FREEDOM ON EARTH, PROFESSOR--AND NEVER LEARNED FROM WHERE OUR ENEMY CAME!

TRUE, CYCLOPS--



BUT STILL, WE WON! AND THAT, AFTER ALL, IS THE ONLY THING OF IMPORTANCE!

NEXT ISSUE: COUNT NEFARIA! 'NUFF SAID!