

X-MEN

THE STRANGEST TEENS OF ALL!

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MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

X-MEN



WHEN
SUNFIRE
STRIKES!

X-MEN THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM ^{OF} ALL TIME!™

THE COMING OF **SUNFIRE!**

ANTS!
THIS IS A
LAND OF
ANTS...OF
SMUG AND
SMIRKING
INSECTS!

BUT SOON,
THEY SHALL
KNOW THE
OMINOUS
TREAD OF...
SUNFIRE!



A SOMEWHAT
OUTRE OUTING BY:
STAN ROY
EDITOR
LEE THOMAS DON
WRITER
TOM PALMER ILLUSTRATOR
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERER

SPECIAL BULLPEN BUTT-IN:
OUR SINCERE THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT TO
DASHIN' **DONNIE HECK** FOR PINCH-HITTING THIS MONTH
FOR NEPARIODUS **HEAL ADAMS**...WHO'LL BE BACK
WITH OUR MERRY MUTANTS **NEXT ISH!**
AND NOW, ON WITH THIS ISSUE'S
DEFINITELY **DIFFERENT**
SAGA...!

THE MENACE OF MAGNETO IS ENDED, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING! BUT FOR THE MUTANT X-MEN, OUTCASTS OF A SOCIETY WHICH FEARS AND HATES THEM, THERE CAN BE NO REJOICING...NO RESPIRE! FOR THEM, THERE IS ONLY THE GNAWING DREAD THAT THE NEXT EVIL MUTANT WILL BE THE ONE THEY CANNOT DEFEAT...THE ONE WHO MAY DESTROY THEM, AND THE WORLD THEY SECRETLY DEFEND...!



LOOK ALIVE, YOU GLORY HOUNDS!

I JUST GOT A BOGEY AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK!

HUN? TAR MY FEATHERS IF I'M WRONG, BOBBY...

HE MEANS THAT OUR MINI-CEREBRO JUST PICKED UP ANOTHER MUTANT, ANGEL!

BUT I THINK OL' HANK'S BEEN WATCHIN' WAR-FLOCKS ON THE TUBE AGAIN!



PERSONALLY, BEAST, I LIKED YOU BETTER AS A ONE-MAN THESAURUS!

SCOFF AT MY VERSATILE VOCABULARY AS YOU WILL, SCOTTIE!

THE FACT REMAINS, THERE'S AN UNIDENTIFIED MUTANT SOMEWHERE IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN!

AND, FROM THE DATA WHICH CEREBRO IS FEEDING BACK, WE'D BETTER HOPE HE'S FRIENDLY...



"...BECAUSE IT'S JUST POSSIBLE THAT HE'S THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT WE'VE YET ENCOUNTERED!"

I HAVE WASTED ENOUGH TIME IN RECONNOITERING!

IT IS TIME TO MY TRUE DESTINATION...

...THE CENTRAL PLAZA OF THE UNITED NATIONS!

"HONORED GUESTS ...MY FELLOW DELEGATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ...LADIES AND GENTLEMEN..."

"IT IS WITH THE DEEPEST PLEASURE THAT I FLEW HERE FROM MY NATIVE JAPAN THIS MORNING..."

...TO DEDICATE THIS STRIKING NEW MONUMENT TO THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD!

MAY OUR PLANET'S YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW PEACE FOR AS LONG AS THESE MARBLE FIGURES ENDURE!

THE CEREMONY WHICH I CAME TO HEAR IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

THAT'S MY KIND OF GUY!
HE MAKES ME FEEL LIKE MAYBE THE BIG ONE WAS WORTH IT, AFTER ALL!

MR. YOSHIDA IS A SNIVELING, SPINELESS FOOL!

I READ THAT MR. YOSHIDA IS ONE OF JAPAN'S GREATEST STATESMEN!

I SHOULD KNOW, ABOVE ALL MEN!

JUST THEN, AS THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES ARE COMPLETED...

AND NOW, IF THIS UNWORTHY PERSON COULD BORROW A GLASS OF WATER...!

BUT, IT WAS A GREAT SPEECH, MR. YOSHIDA!

A RASPING THROAT IS THE PRICE I PAY FOR EACH FORMAL SPEECH I MAKE!

YES...A PERFECT SPEECH... FOR A TRAITOR!

AND SO, I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO!

WHAT? WHO SPEAKS...?

I SPEAK!
I...
SUNFIRE!

BUT MY
HAND
SHALL
MAKE MY
ONLY
COMMENT
ON THAT
MARBLE
PERFIDY!

SSZZZZ

THROOOOM!

HE BLEW UP
THE MONUMENT
...WITH SOME
KIND'A HEAT
RAY!

IT'S
TIME TO
SPLIT...

...BEFORE
HE
DECIDES
IT'S TIME
FOR
**TOASTED
FLOWER-
CHILD!**

**HEADS UP,
HALCYON
HEROES!**

YOU ARE A
NATION OF
**WEAKLINGS...
OF COWARDS!**

IS THERE
NO ONE
WHO WILL
DARE
FACE
SUNFIRE
IN BATTLE?

WELL,
PAL,
NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT...!

IT'S--ONE
OF THE
**X-MEN--
DEFENDING**
US!

BUT, I ALWAYS
HEARD...
THEY WERE
CRIMINALS!

HERE'S WHERE
WE GIVE THE
X-MEN'S
**TARNISHED
REPUTATION**
A MUCH-
NEEDED
**BOOSTER
SHOT!**

OF COURSE, WE WERE ACTUALLY HOPING THAT YOU WERE OF A LESS HOSTILE PERSUASION!

ANOTHER FEW RECRUITS, AND THE X-MEN COULD BECOME THE FIRST MUTANT BASEBALL TEAM!

THAT IS THE LAST FEEBLE JOKE THAT YOU SHALL MAKE, AMERICAN!

WHOOOPS!

DIDN'T REALIZE-- YOU'D STILL BE ABLE TO FLY-- WITH ME ON YOUR BACK--!

THERE ARE MANY THINGS YOU DO NOT REALIZE, DOG!

SLZZZZ

PRAY ONLY THAT YOU SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO LEARN MORE OF THEM!

YEEOWWW!

HANK'S IN TROUBLE-- BAD TROUBLE!

GOT TO POUR ON SPEED-- LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

IT'S--NOT NECESSARY TO SEND OUT ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANGEL-- BUT THANKS!

ICEMAN--KEEP THAT WOULD-BE ASSASSIN OFF ANGEL'S BACK-- TILL HE CAN DEPOSIT ME SOMEWHERE!

GOT YOU!!

SNEESH! EVEN HALF-ZONKED, BEASTIE THINKS HE'S **QUARTERBACKING** OUR LITTLE TRIO!

WELL, LET'S SEE IF THESE FRESH-FROZEN FLYING SAUCERS'LL COOL THINGS DOWN!

WHAT--?

FOOLS! DON'T YOU SEE HOW HELPLESS YOU ARE BEFORE MY POWER?

YOU PLAY AT FIGHTING, AS IF IT WERE MERE SPORT--

--WHILE SUNFIRE FIGHTS TO THE DEATH!!

HOLD IT, FELLA! YOU'RE NOT MAKIN' ANY SENSE!

WHY DID YOU DESTROY THAT STATUE --?

DO NOT TRY TO DISTRACT ME WITH YOUR FUTILE QUESTIONS, AMERICAN!

I SEE THE POLICE BELOW-- WAITING TO KILL ME IF I DO NOT HEED THEIR WARNING SHOTS!

WAIT! YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG!

WE'RE FELLOW MUTANTS! WE ONLY WANT TO--

BLAST IT! HE'S EVEN OUT-MANEUVERING ME!

A PITY I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TEACH YOU JUST HOW SUPERIOR TO YOU I AM, WINGED ONE!

HOLY JUMPIN' HANNAH!

WHAT'S HIS POWER SOURCE, ANYWAY?

HE JUST CLICKS HIS HEELS...AND I'M LEFT WITH EGG ON MY FACE!

MIGHT AS WELL GO SEE IF HANK'S OKAY...!

SOON, BACK AT THE MIDTOWN APARTMENT WHICH THE X-MEN KEEP AS THEIR CITY HQ...

THE BOYS ARE BACK... THANK HEAVENS!

IF ONLY WE HADN'T BEEN OUT SHOPPING WHEN THEY LOCATED THAT MUTANT...

NEVER MIND THAT NOW! I'LL SEE TO THESE STRANGE BURNS ON HANK'S FACE!



WE HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO, WARREN!



THEN YOU KNOW THAT HANK HERE GOT THE WORST OF THE DEAL!

AND AS USUAL, THE PRESS ENDED UP BLAMING THE WHOLE THING ON THE X-MEN!

MAKES ME WISH WE'D GONE STRAIGHT HOME WHEN WE GOT BACK FROM KA-ZAR COUNTRY!



WILL I EVER PLAY THE COMB-AND-TISSUE PAPER AGAIN, MA'AM?



THIS IS SERIOUS, BEAST! IT'S AS IF YOU'VE BEEN BADLY SUNBURNED... AND YOU'LL NEED LOTS OF REST!

THE X-MEN WILL FIND THE MUTANT CALLED SUNFIRE...

BUT THEY'LL DO IT WITHOUT HENRY C. MCCOY!



WHILE, SEVERAL DOZEN BLOCKS TO THE SOUTH...

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, SHIRO!

THANK YOU, UNCLE!



YET, EVEN IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, IT ALL SEEMED SOMEHOW... WRONG!

WRONG? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, NEPHEW...?



"NO, UNCLE... I HAVE FORGOTTEN NOTHING!"

"I REMEMBER WELL THE SCENES I NEVER SAW..."

"...THE SEARING ATOMIC BLAST WHICH MADE A SMOULDERING RUIN OF OUR NATIVE HIROSHIMA..."



"...JUST AS I REMEMBER THAT IT MADE A HOPELESS INVALID OF MY MOTHER... MANY MILES FROM THE CENTER OF THE CITY..."

"I REMEMBER THAT SHE DIED A FEW YEARS LATER... ON THE VERY NIGHT I WAS BORN..."

"BUT, MOST OF ALL, I REMEMBER A NIGHT NOT LONG AGO... WHEN YOU TOOK ME TO A CERTAIN PLACE IN HIROSHIMA..."

BUT, I DO NOT KNOW WHY YOU WISH ME TO TAKE THIS BURNT, BARREN SOIL INTO MY HANDS...!

YOU SHALL SEE!

THESE ARE ALL THAT REMAIN OF THE RUINS, SHIRO!

YES... I KNOW...

"...AND THAT YOU, DEAR UNCLE TOMO, HELPED MY FATHER REAR ME TO MANHOOD!"

THEN... I WAS RIGHT!

LISTEN TO ME, NEPHEW!

AAARRHHH!

THE VERY TOUCH OF IT... SEEMS TO SET ME ON FIRE!

I FEEL AS IF... A RAGING FURNACE... BURNED WITHIN MY BREAST!

YOU ARE A MUTANT... AS I ALWAYS SUSPECTED!

POINT YOUR FINGERS EARTHWARD, AND YOU SHALL SEE PROOF OF WHAT I SAY!

YES... I SHALL... BUT, WHAT...?

FIRE! THE BLAZING FIRE OF THE SUN ITSELF...

...HURLING FROM MY OUTSTRETCHED FINGERTIPS!

THEN, I AM A MUTANT... ONE OF THOSE BORN WITH DORMANT BUT DEADLY POWERS!

DORMANT NO LONGER, BOY!

NOW SPEAK...SPEAK THE SACRED OATH WHICH I HAVE TAUGHT YOU IN SECRET SINCE CHILDHOOD!

WELL SAID, NEPHEW!

SOON, YOU SHALL WIELD IT... IN A WAY THE WORLD SHALL NEVER FORGET!

I...I WILL, MY UNCLE!

I SHALL AVENGE THE INCALCULABLE WRONG DONE MY PEOPLE IN THIS PLACE, THESE MANY YEARS AGO!

SPEAK!

ALWAYS I SENSED THAT SUCH POWER WOULD BE YOURS, WHEN YOU WERE COME OF AGE!

I SHALL SMITE THE ETERNAL ENEMY... HUMBLE HIM... WITH ALL THE VAST POWERS AT MY COMMAND!

"BUT FIRST, THERE WERE THE LONG, HIDDEN HOURS OF PRACTICE...!"

YOU STORE AND DISCHARGE THE POWER OF THE SUN ITSELF, SHIRO...

SO DO I, SHIRO YOSHIDA, SWEAR!

THUS, WHEN YOU STRIKE AT LAST...

YOU MUST WEAR OUR ANCIENT COLORS... AND BE KNOWN AS...

SUNFIRE!

"AND ALWAYS, YOU WERE THERE, UNCLE...TRAINING ME... AND EVER FANNING THE FLAME OF MY OWN YOUTHFUL HATRED!"

MY HARNESSED POWERS EVEN ENABLE ME TO... FLY!

I AM READY AT LAST... READY TO FACE THE ENEMY!

...AND, I KNOW THAT THE ENEMY IS...THE AMERICANS!!

THEN MAKE READY, SHIRO... FOR THE SUPREME TEST IS AT HAND!

THE MOMENT WHEN AMERICA IS HUMBLED IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD!

...EVEN HERE, NEAR THE U.N., IT WON'T BE EASY TO PICK UP THAT MUTANT'S TRAIL!

MAYBE NOT... BUT COMPARED TO THE BATTLE WE HAD KEEPING THE BEAST AT HOME IN BED...

IT'LL HAVE TO BE A SNAP!

IN FACT, I THINK WE JUST STRUCK PAY DIRT!

ANGEL... I'M GETTING A STRONG READING FROM DIRECTLY BELOW!

I'M GONE LITTLE LEADER!

YEEESH!- I SURE HOPE CYCLOPS KNOWS WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT!

THE MOVING CAR HE WANTED ME TO CHECK OUT IS...

...A DIPLOMATIC VEHICLE!

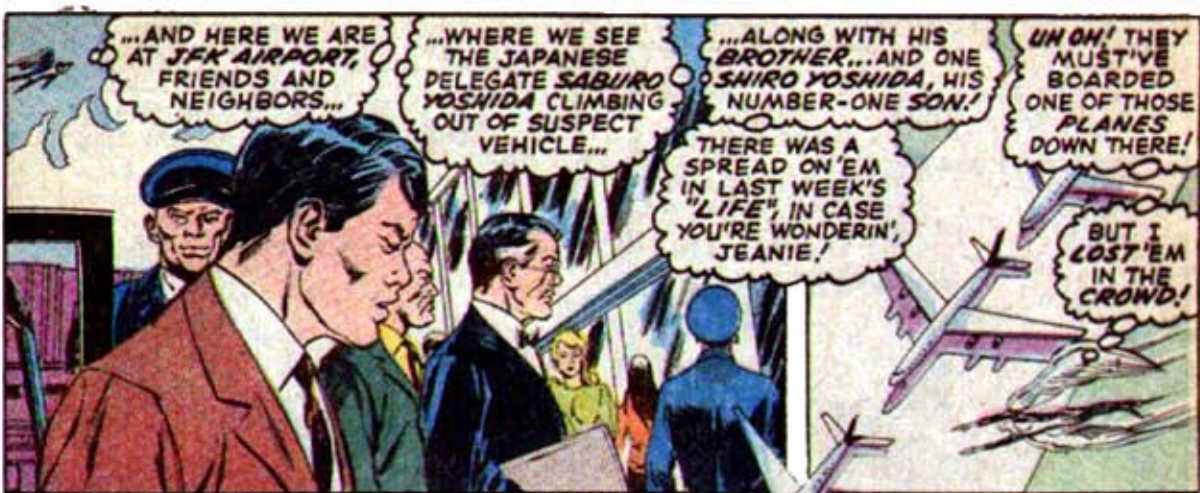
IF WE INTERFERE WITH ONE OF THOSE, WE'LL BE IN INTERNATIONAL HOT WATER!

SCOTT... DO YOU THINK OUR CEREBRO UNIT COULD BE MISTAKEN?

NOT ONE CHANCE IN A ZILLION, JEAN!

BUT, TELL WARREN JUST TO FOLLOW THE CAR, FOR THE TIME BEING!

WE'LL DROP BACK OUT OF SIGHT... AND YOU CAN KEEP ANGEL IN MENTAL CONTACT!



...AND HERE WE ARE AT JFK AIRPORT, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS...

...WHERE WE SEE THE JAPANESE DELEGATE SABURO YOSHIDA CLIMBING OUT OF SUSPECT VEHICLE...

...ALONG WITH HIS BROTHER...AND ONE SHIRO YOSHIDA, HIS NUMBER-ONE SON!

OH OH! THEY MUST'VE BOARDED ONE OF THOSE PLANES DOWN THERE!

THERE WAS A SPREAD ON 'EM IN LAST WEEK'S "LIFE", IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERIN', JEANIE!

BUT I LOST 'EM IN THE CROWD!



STILL, IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO CHECK EACH PLANE OUT AFTER IT'S AIRBORNE!

IF I'M LUCKY, MAYBE NOBODY'LL EVEN SEE ME--!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT... PULLING SENSATION...?



NOW HE'S REALLY IN FOR IT!

HOLY CROW! WARREN GOT TOO NEAR THE JET'S INTAKE!

WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM--IF WE CAN!



THAT BLASTED THING IS SCOOPIN' ME IN... LIKE IT WAS A VACUUM CLEANER!

NOTHING I CAN DO... EXCEPT KEEP FIGHTING... TILL THE END....!



ICE! IT'S FORMING A BARRIER IN FRONT OF ME!

AND JEANIE'S GOT ME TELEKINETICALLY... I CAN FEEL IT!

THEY'VE BAILED ME OUT AGAIN!

WHILE, ONLY A FEW METAL-PLATED FEET AWAY...

I TELL YOU, BILL, THERE WAS A MAN OUT THERE... A MASKED MAN WITH WINGS!

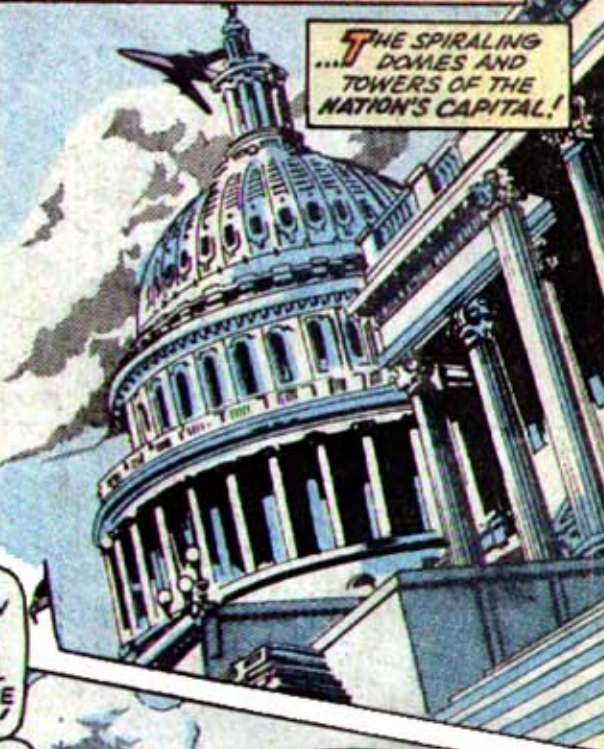
MAYBE IT WAS THE LONE RANGER'S GUARDIAN ANGEL!

BY THE WAY, FRED, THERE'S A 'SHRINK' FLYING BACK IN TOURIST CLASS...



WITHIN THE HOUR, THE SLEEK SKYBORNE CRUISER REACHES ITS DESTINATION...

THE SPIRALING DOMES AND TOWERS OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL!



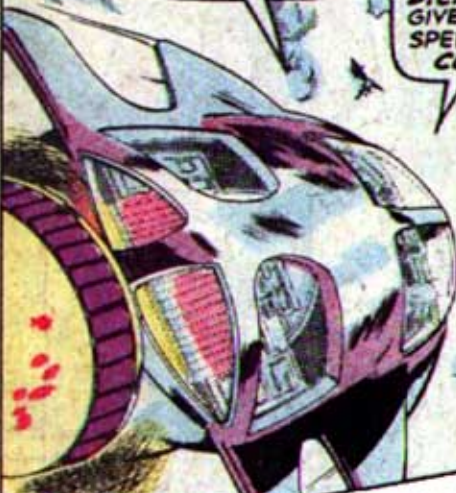
...SURE GLAD YOU REMEMBERED THAT ARTICLE ON YOSHIDA THAT YOU READ, ANGEL!

YEAH... 'CAUSE NOW WE KNOW HE'S DUE IN D.C. TODAY, TO GIVE A SPECIAL SPEECH BEFORE CONGRESS!

SO WHY YOUR LONG FACE, CYKE?

I WAS JUST THINKING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FALLOUT, BOBBY...

...IF ONE OF YOSHIDA'S PARTY IS REALLY OUT FOR BLOOD... AMERICAN BLOOD!



TODAY THE SOFT AND THE DECADENT SHALL TREMBLE, AS THEY DID DECADES AGO...

AND SOON, IN A SUITE IN ONE OF THE CITY'S PLUSHEST HOTELS...

OUT THERE IS THE ENEMY, NEPHEW... AND THIS IS THE HOUR!

YOU NEED NOT REMIND ME, MY UNCLE!

...BEFORE THE SYMBOL OF THE RISING SUN!!



WHAT KIND OF UNREASONING TREASON DO YOU SPEAK?

WHAT...?

SILENCE!

SLAP!

I DARE NOT GUESS AT THE FULL MEANING OF YOUR WORDS, MY SON!

BUT, THE OLD QUARRELS ARE DEAD... AND THEY MUST BE FORGOTTEN!

WITH A SINGLE BLOW, I COULD...

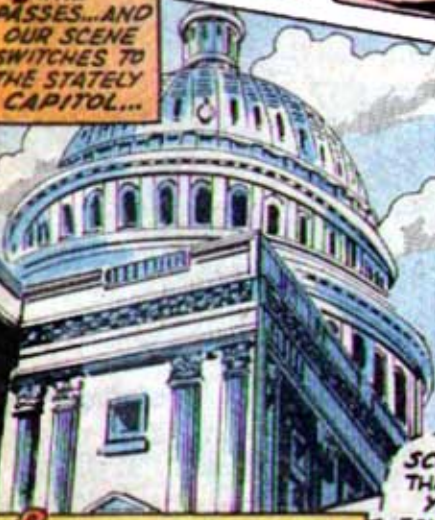
NO! HE IS MY FATHER... IT WOULD BE BLASPHEMY!

BUT, HE SHALL CHANGE HIS MIND... LATER...!

DO YOU HEAR ME, UNGRATEFUL ONE?

YES... MY FATHER...!

TIME PASSES... AND OUR SCENE SWITCHES TO THE STATELY CAPITOL...



BUT, INSIDE THE PROUD EDIFICE, ALL IS DEFINITELY NOT SWEETNESS AND LIGHT... AS TWO GRIM FORMS MINGLE WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES AND THE VISITING LADIES' CLUBS...!

SCOTT... ISN'T THAT SABURO YOSHIDA, FOLLOWING HIS SON INTO THAT SEALED-OFF WING?

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, JEAN... UNTIL AND UNLESS THE ONE WHO'S SUNFIRE TIPS HIS HAND!

AND THEN, I ONLY PRAY IT ISN'T TOO LATE!

SHOULDN'T WE SHADOW THEM... OR SOMETHING?

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN A NEARBY CLOAKROOM...

SO... THAT WHICH I FEARED IS INDEED TRUE!

MY SON IS THE DOG THEY CALL... SUN-FIRE!



PLEASE STAND ASIDE, MY FATHER!

NO! YOU SHALL NOT DISGRACE YOUR FATHER... AND YOUR COUNTRY...!

YOU ARE TOO OLD... TOO SOFT TO UNDERSTAND!

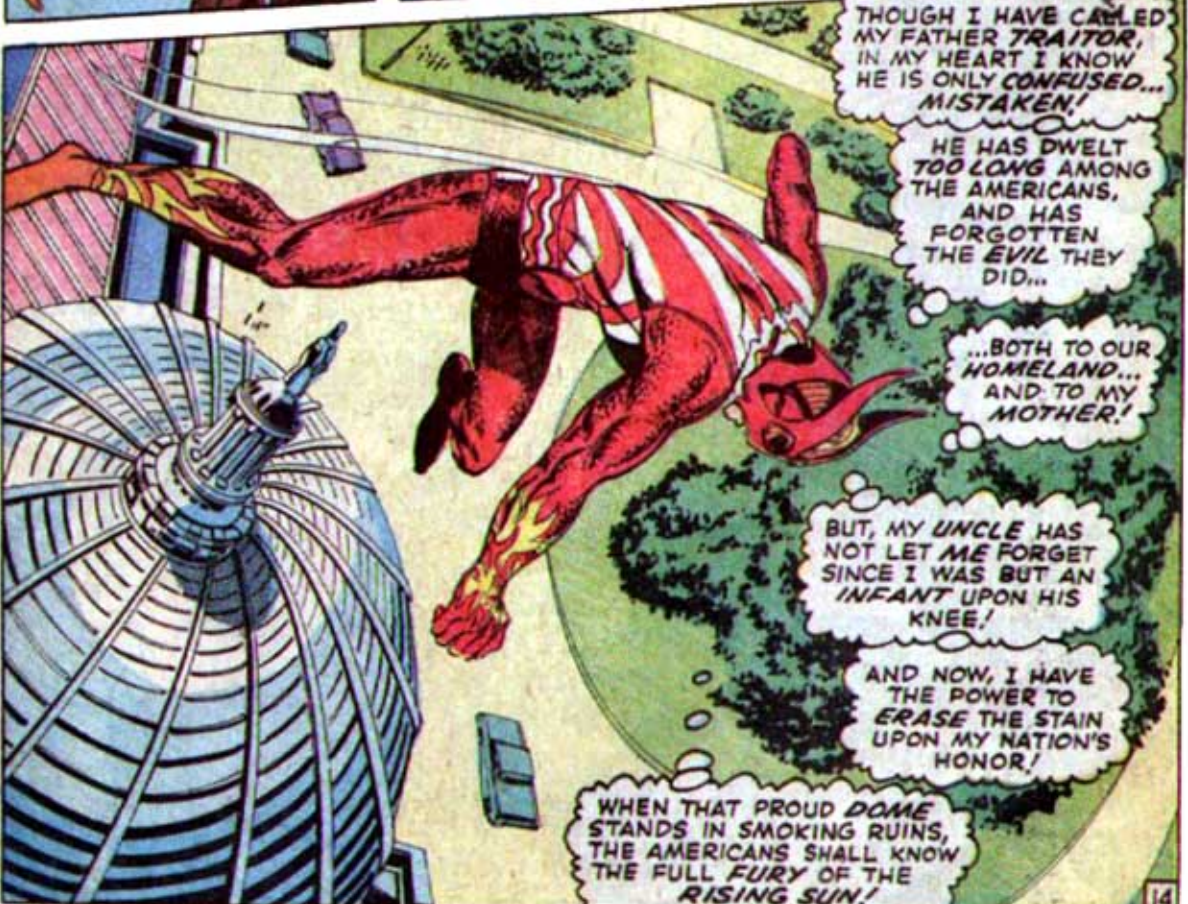


WHAT I DO, I DO FOR MY COUNTRY!



I WILL SEE TO YOUR FATHER, SHIRO!

NOW GO... AND DO WHAT YOU CAME TO DO!



THOUGH I HAVE CALLED MY FATHER TRAITOR, IN MY HEART I KNOW HE IS ONLY CONFUSED... MISTAKEN!

HE HAS DWELT TOO LONG AMONG THE AMERICANS, AND HAS FORGOTTEN THE EVIL THEY DID...

... BOTH TO OUR HOMELAND... AND TO MY MOTHER!

BUT, MY UNCLE HAS NOT LET ME FORGET SINCE I WAS BUT AN INFANT UPON HIS KNEE!

AND NOW, I HAVE THE POWER TO ERASE THE STAIN UPON MY NATION'S HONOR!

WHEN THAT PROUD DOME STANDS IN SMOKING RUINS, THE AMERICANS SHALL KNOW THE FULL FURY OF THE RISING SUN!

ONE SINGLE, SUN-BORN BLAST WILL--

WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL MY ANCESTORS?

THE WINGED AMERICAN MUTANT-- HERE-- BUT HOW--?

THEN YOU SHALL CURSE THE DAY THAT YOU HEADED HIS CALL, FOOL!

A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME, PAL!

SHOOOM

MISSED ME-- BUT HE SINGED MY WINGS --BAD!

NOW, A FINAL BURST, AND--

WAIT! SOMETHING HALTS MY FIERY BLAST!

TWICE THE ONE CALLED ICE MAN HAS DIVERTED ONE OF MY ATTACKS!

NOT SOMETHING, BUT SOMEBODY... NAMELY, THE EVER-PRESENT ICEMAN!

BUT TO SAVE MY RECKLESS HIDE, HE HADDA FROST UP MY WINGS!

I'M OUT OF THIS FIGHT... FOR THE DURATION!

HE SHALL NEVER DO SO AGAIN!



SSZZZZZ

SHEESH!
I DIDN'T
THROW UP
THAT **ICE**
SHIELD
ANY TOO
SOON!



IT'S...
PROTECTIN'
ME...
BUT AS IT **MELTS**
...IT'S **TURNING**
INTO **RED-HOT**
STEAM!

THE **HEAT!**
I CAN'T...
STAND...
THE **HEAT...**



BOBBY'S
DOWN...
JUST
LIKE
WARREN!

NOW IT'S
UP TO
CYCLOPS
AND
MARVEL
GIRL
TO **CARRY**
THE **BALL!**

YOU'RE
STAYING
OUT OF
THIS,
LITTLE
LADY!

JUST **LEVITATE**
ME UP TO
THE
CAPITOL
DOME...
AND
THEN **TAKE**
CARE OF **ANGEL!**

GET
'M
CYKE!

GET **'M**
...
FOR **ME...**

ORDERLY?
ARE THEY
KIDDIN'?

"MAY WE HAVE
YOUR
ATTENTION,
PLEASE?
PLEASE LEAVE
THE **CAPITOL**,
IN AN **ORDERLY**
FASHION...!"

I HEARD
THERE'S A
MADMAN
OUTSIDE...
GONNA
BLOW UP
THE PLACE!

ANYBODY
WHO'S
ORDERLY...
IS **DEAD!!**





HERE GOES, SCOTT... BUT I STILL WISH...

DON'T EVEN SAY IT, GIRL!

FROM HERE ON, IT'S CYCLOPS' SHOW!



JEANIE GOT ME HERE JUST IN TIME! OUR FIRE-BREATHING FOE LOOKS LIKE HE'S ZEROING IN FOR THE KILL... ON THIS DOME!

I HOPE I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO STOP HIM!



NOW, RAVAGERS OF MY ANCESTRAL HOMELAND...

YOU DESTROYED WITH HEAT... AND NOW YOUR CAPITAL SHALL BE ENGULFED BY IT!

THE POWER OF THE ATOM AND THE POWER OF THE SUN... ARE ONE!

BUT, THE NEXT SOUL-SCORCHING INSTANT...

KRA-KOW!



THE INFERNAL DOME STILL STANDS!

SOME NEW FORCE HALTED MY SOLAR BLASTS!

YET--THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!!

BUT IT IS POSSIBLE, FRIEND...

EVERY BIT AS POSSIBLE AS...
FORGIVING YOUR ENEMIES!

YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE STILL FIGHTING A WAR THAT ENDED **DECADES AGO!**



MY FORCE BEAMS ARE **CANCELLING OUT HIS...** BUT JUST **BARELY!**

YOU--THE ONE THEY CALL **CYCLOPS!**

BUT, **NO AMERICAN DOG SHALL DETER ME FROM MY PURPOSE...**

FOOL! DID YOU THINK I'D BE **UNPREPARED** FOR ONE LAST, **DESPERATE LEAP?**

NOT MAN-- AND NOT MUTANT!!

SOMETHING-- **PULLING MY HEAD BACK-- WITH GREAT FORCE--!**

UNNH!



NO MATCH... FOR HIS SPEED!

WHEN HE **DROPS ME...** IT'LL BE **ALL OVER!**

FTAK!



STILL, AT LEAST **ONE** PHASE OF MY PLAN IS **WORKING!**

TO GET AT ME, HE'S FORCED TO COME **CLOSER... CLOSER... UNTIL...**

NOW!



YES...OF COURSE...THE **GIRL** ...SHE WHO EVEN NOW **LOWERS** THE X-MAN SAFELY TO THE GROUND!

STILL, SHE HAS **ACHIEVED NOTHING!**

THE **CAPITOL** SHALL **YET GO UP** IN **SUN-SPAWNED FLAMES!**

IT'S-- **JEAN!!**



THEN, CONSIGN IT TO FLAMES, YOU WHO ONCE WERE MY SON!

YOU-- FATHER!

TOMO IS A SICK MAN, SHIRO... FEEDING THE FIRE OF HIS HATRED WITH THE EMBERS OF A LONG-DEAD WAR!

PLEASE, MY FATHER... YOUR WORDS MAKE MY HEAD SPIN IN CONFUSION!

DO NOT MAKE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO MEN... TWO WORLDS...!

BUT, ONLY IF YOU ALSO DARE MURDER ONE WHO STANDS UPON IT!

LEAVE THIS PLACE... I DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU!

RENOUNCE HIM... LET HIS DREAMS OF GLORY BECOME A WAKING NIGHTMARE FOR TWO NATIONS!

BUT, UNCLE TOMO HAS SHOWN ME THE AMERICANS ARE OUR FOES!



YES, CHOOSE, MY SON... AND CHOOSE NOW!!

YOU NEED NOT CHOOSE, SHIRO!

I SHALL MAKE THE CHOICE FOR YOU!

FATHER!!

KRAK!

BUT, NOTHING CAN STOP THE LIMP FORM WHICH TOPPLES FROM THE HIGH BALCONY...

...OR THE WHITE-HOT BURST WHICH, AN INSTANT LATER, SNUFFS OUT A LIFE WHICH HAD FED ON HATRED AND HOLOCAUST...!

SZZRIP!

AAARRAHH!



WHEN, BELOW...

FATHER... FATHER...

I... DID NOT MEAN THIS TO HAPPEN...

I KNOW...!



IF ONLY... I COULD UNDO THE WRONG I HAVE DONE...!

LIVE ONLY... FOR THE FUTURE, SHIRO... NOT FOR THE PAST!

FORGE THE TOOLS OF PEACE...

...FROM THE CHAINS... OF WAR...



...WE'LL WAIT OVER THERE, SON...!



WE... WE MAY AS WELL GO... THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO! AND YET...

SHIRO'S MOTHER WAS CAUGHT IN THE HIROSHIMA BLAST, YOU SAID?

YES... THAT MUST BE WHY HE'S A MUTANT!

IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE REASONED WITH HIM... REACHED HIM IN TIME, SOMEHOW...!

...MAYBE THE NEXT ONE...!



YEAH... MAYBE THE NEXT ONE...!



FIN