

# Prince Namor, THE SUB-MARINER!™

## A T T U M A

## TR I U M P H A N T!

LOOK, TRITON... I THINK IT'S JUST PEACHY-KEEN THAT THE F.F. PATCHED UP ITS LITTLE FEUD WITH YOU INHUMANS!

BUT DIDJA HAVE TO COME CALLIN' IN THE MIDDLE OF LAUGH-IN RE-RUNS?

I'M SORRY, BEN GRIMM... BUT FAR MORE URGENT MATTERS WEIGH UPON MY MIND!

MATTERS WHICH CONCERN... THE SUB-MARINER!

I HAD HOPED TO SPEAK WITH REED RICHARDS ABOUT THE ATLANTEAN MONARCH!

BUT I FIND HIM AND THE OTHERS AWAY AT WHISPER HILL... WHILE TIME GROWS EVER SHORTER!

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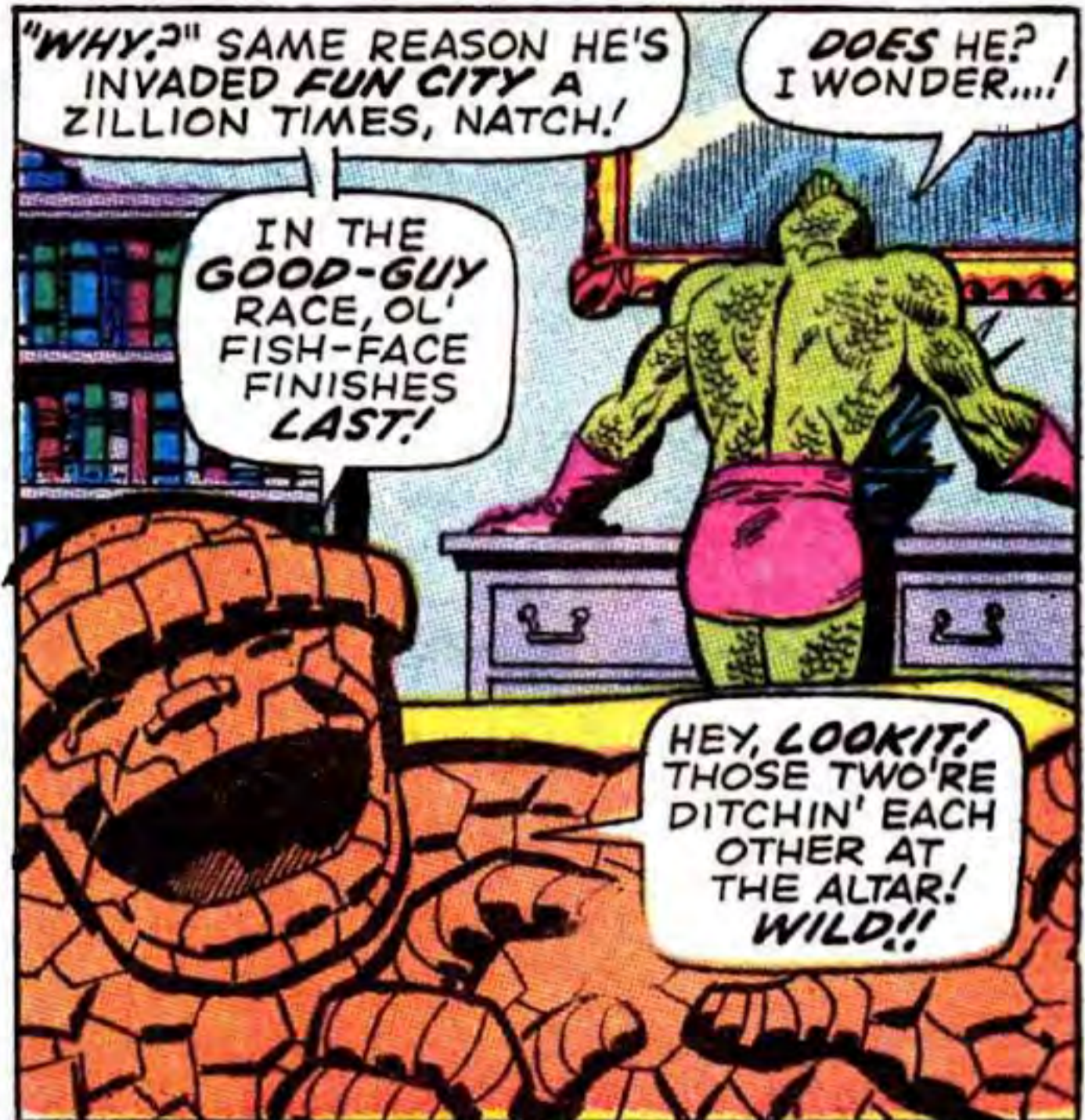
I'LL SAY TIME'S GETTIN' SHORTER!

THEY'RE ALREADY RE-RUNNIN' THE WEDDING OF GLADYS AND TYRONE!

THAT TYRONE-- NOW THERE'S MY KIND'A SENIOR CITIZEN!

IF ONLY I KNEW WHY NAMOR RECENTLY SANK THAT YACHT IN THE ATLANTIC!\*

\*AS SEEN...AND EXPLAINED...LAST ISSUE!--STAN.



"WHY?" SAME REASON HE'S INVADDED FUN CITY A ZILLION TIMES, NATCH!

DOES HE? I WONDER...!

IN THE GOOD-GUY RACE, OL' FISH-FACE FINISHES LAST!

HEY, LOOKIT! THOSE TWO'RE DITCHIN' EACH OTHER AT THE ALTAR! WILD!!

**B**UT, OF SOMEWHAT MORE IMPORT TO MANKIND ARE THE EVENTS TAKING PLACE EVEN NOW IN SUNKEN ATLANTIS....!



PRINCE NAMOR! THANK NEPTUNE YOU HAVE RETURNED IN THIS HOUR OF NEED!

CAN YOUR NEWS NOT WAIT, LORD VASHTI?

I HAVE ONLY MET NAMOR AT THE GATE THIS VERY MINUTE, AS I WAS LEAVING TO SEARCH FOR HIM!

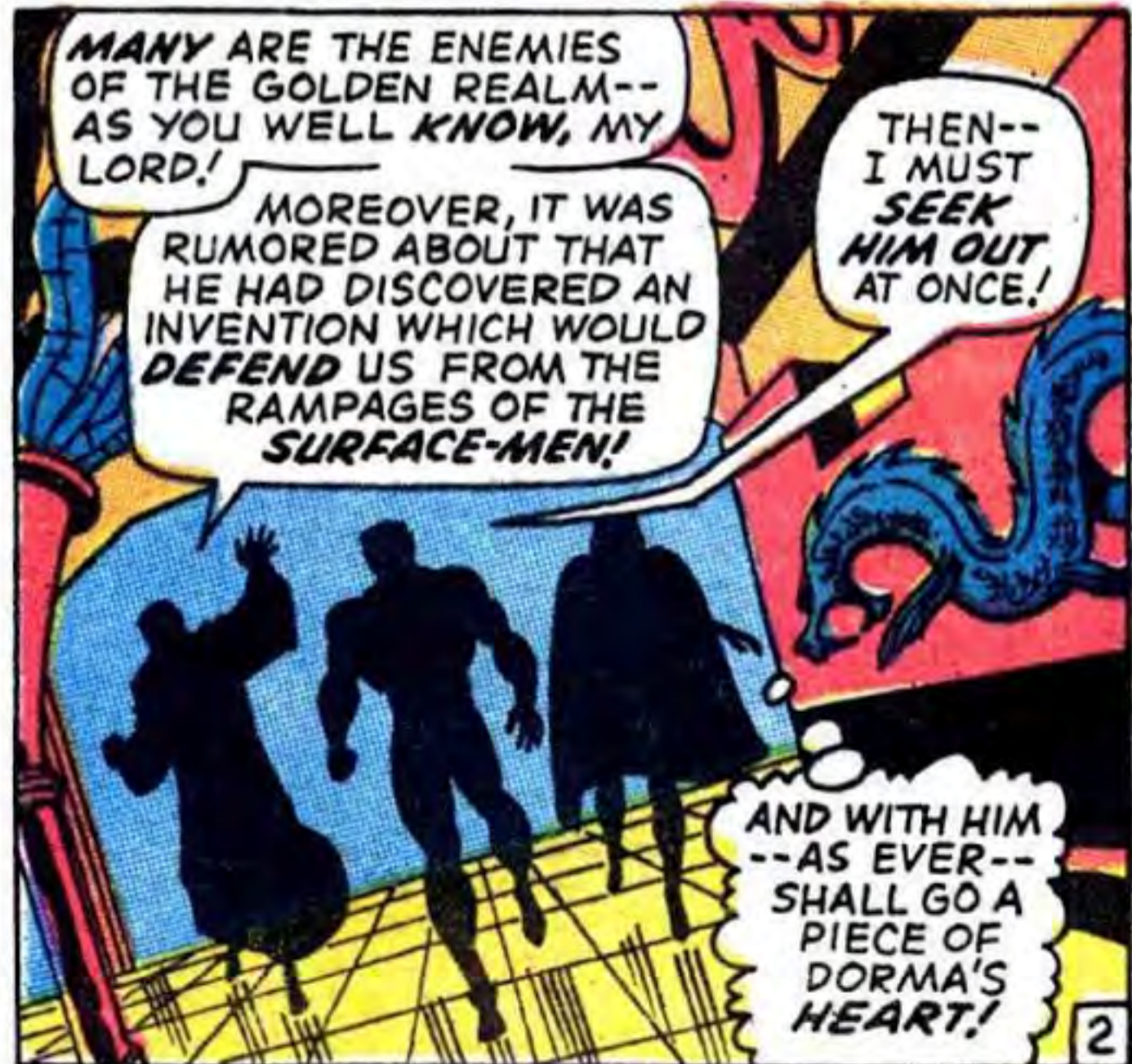
MY GRAND VIZIER IS HARDLY ONE TO CRY OUT THUS FOR NO REASON, DORMA!



ALAS, GREAT PRINCE, WOULD THAT I NEVER LIVED TO SPEAK THESE WORDS!

WORD HAS JUST REACHED ME THAT IKTHON IS GONE-- ABDUCTED FROM THE VERY HALL OF SCIENCE ITSELF!

IKTHON? BUT WHO WOULD STEAL OUR CHIEF SCIENTIST?



MANY ARE THE ENEMIES OF THE GOLDEN REALM-- AS YOU WELL KNOW, MY LORD!

MOREOVER, IT WAS RUMORED ABOUT THAT HE HAD DISCOVERED AN INVENTION WHICH WOULD DEFEND US FROM THE RAMPAGES OF THE SURFACE-MEN!

THEN-- I MUST SEEK HIM OUT AT ONCE!

AND WITH HIM --AS EVER-- SHALL GO A PIECE OF DORMA'S HEART!

**T**HE LOVELY NOBLEWOMAN, HOWEVER, IS NOT THE ONLY FEMALE WHOSE THOUGHTS DWELL ON THE SUB-MARINER AT THIS MOMENT...!

OH, NAMOR...NAMOR...IF ONLY YOUR HEART WEREN'T PLEDGED TO ANOTHER... TO THE LADY DORMA!

IF ONLY SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN TO TAKE MY MIND OFF YOU... ANYTHING...!

THIS OCEAN VOYAGE WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FORGET YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE...BUT IT'S HAVING JUST THE OPPOSITE EFFECT!



**B**UT, DOES THAT "ANYTHING" INCLUDE WHAT HAPPENS A SECOND LATER, DIANE ARLISS--?

SURRENDER, AIR-BREATHERS-- IN THE NAME OF NAMOR THE FIRST, PRINCE OF ALL THE SEVEN SEAS!

ATLANTEANS! BUT--NO! NAMOR WOULDN'T ATTACK A CRUISE-SHIP! HE WOULDN'T!

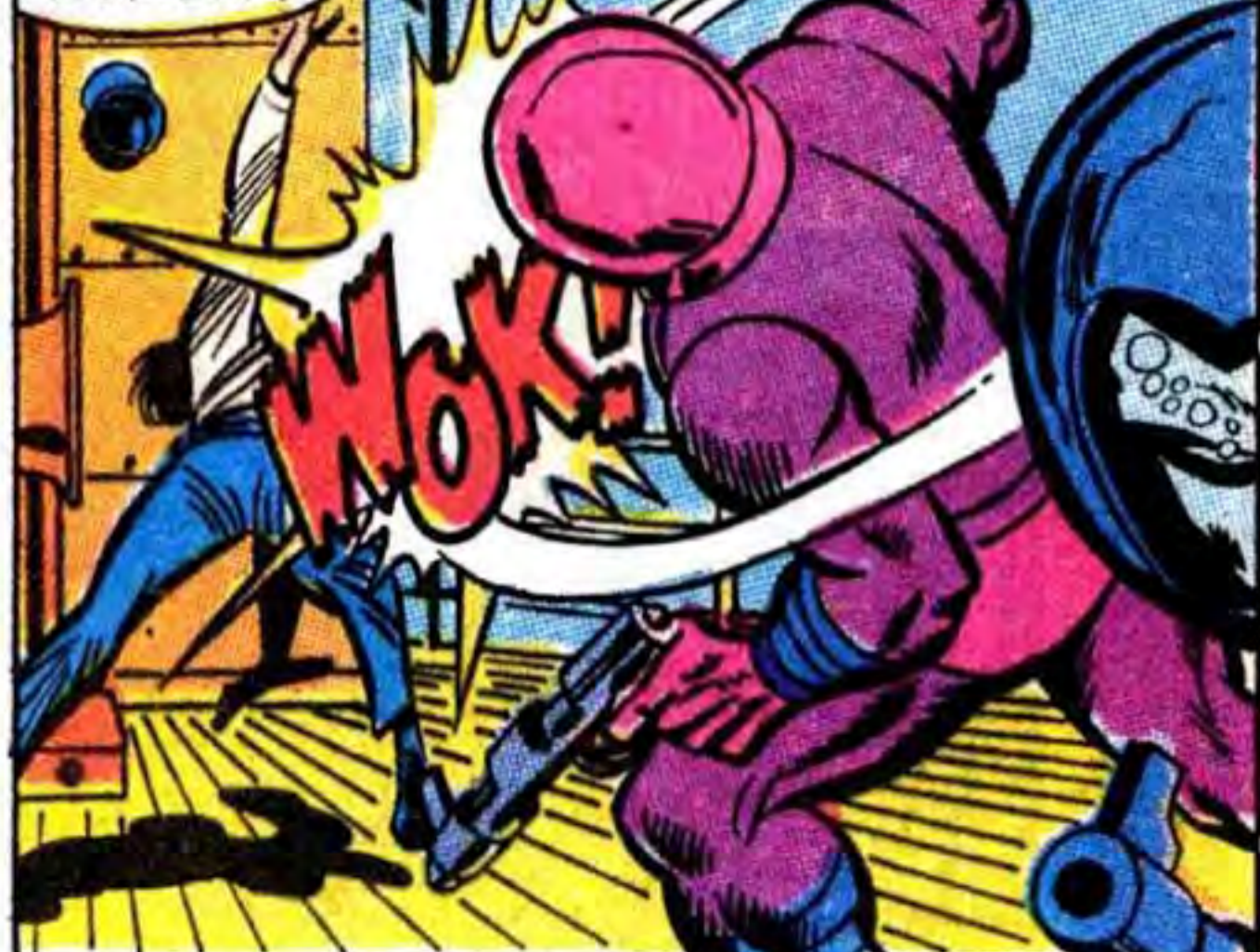
WHAT IS THIS--SOME KIND'A MOVIE STUNT?



DOES THIS ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, LAND-CRAWLER?

NO ONE SPEAKS BACK TO THE EMISSARIES OF THE SUB-MARINER!

**WOK!**



SECURE THE PRISONERS QUICKLY--WHILE I SEE TO MATTERS BELOW!

IT SHALL BE DONE, O WORTA!



S.O.S.! S.O.S.!  
THIS IS THE  
S.S. HORTON,  
IN MID-  
ATLANTIC!

WE HAVE BEEN  
BOARDED BY  
BLUE-SKINNED  
INVADERS  
FROM--

SPINELESS SEA-SNAIL!  
DID YOU THINK THIS DOOR  
WOULD PROTECT YOU FROM  
THE CREAM OF ATLANTIS?

--WHEN YOU AWAKEN  
IN AN ATLANTEAN  
DUNGEON!

YOU WILL SOON  
LEARN THE ERROR OF  
YOUR WAYS!



AAARRHH!



TH-THIS SEEMS  
IMPOSSIBLE--  
LIKE SOME MAD  
DREAM!

OUR COURSE  
WAS MILES AWAY  
FROM ATLANTIS'  
TERRITORIAL  
WATERS! THEN  
WHY--?

WHO  
CARES  
WHY,  
LADY?

ALL I  
WANNA  
KNOW IS--  
AM I EVER  
GONNA SEE  
BROOKLYN  
HEIGHTS  
AGAIN!?



ALL PRISONERS ABOARD--AND TORPEDO  
AWAY, WORTA!

SO I SEE! THE  
MASTER SHALL  
REWARD US WELL  
FOR THIS DAY'S  
WORK, BRODAR!

VERY  
WELL  
INDEED!



...FLASH BULLETIN!  
ARMED RAIDERS  
FROM ATLANTIS  
HAVE JUST SUNK  
A PLEASURE SHIP,  
AFTER ABDUCTING  
ALL PASSENGERS,...

NO! NAMOR WOULD  
NEVER CONDONE  
SUCH ACTION OUT-  
SIDE HIS WATERS!

YOU HUMAN  
SNORKELS  
SURE STICK  
TOGETHER,  
DON'TCHA?

BUT IT SURE DIDN'T  
TAKE MUCH URGIN' FROM  
MAGNETO FOR HIM TO  
RAISE A RUCKUS HERE  
THE OTHER DAY, DID IT?\*

\*AS SEEN  
IN THE  
CURRENT  
F.F.!  
--S.S.



**NOT STRICTLY TRUE, INHUMAN! FOR,  
ELSEWHERE...**

...HEARD MENTION OF  
ATLANTIS, JUST BEFORE TOTAL  
RADIO SILENCE WAS IMPOSED  
BY THE RAIDERS,...

GOOD LORD!  
THIS  
CAN'T BE  
HAPPENING!



TRITON'S RIGHT!  
DAVEY-  
JONESVILLE IS  
HIS PLAYPEN,  
NOT MINE!

I KIND'A HOPE HE'S  
RIGHT ABOUT NAMOR  
BEIN' INNOCENT, TOO!

I COULD USE  
SOMETHIN' THESE  
DAYS TO RESTORE  
MY FAITH IN  
PEOPLE!

GOOD-BYE,  
THING--AND  
THANK YOU  
FOR THE  
RIDE!



WELL, HE STUCK HIS  
FEATHERED FOOTSIE  
IN IT *THIS* TIME,  
GREENIE!

MESS AROUND  
WITH OL' BENJY WHEN  
IT'S TIME FOR THE JOKE  
WALL, WILL HE? I'LL  
CLOBBER THE BUM!  
I'LL--

I'D SUGGEST  
YOU LET  
ME LOOK  
INTO THE  
MATTER, OLD  
FRIEND!

WHERE  
NAMOR WALKS  
--NONE BUT  
TRITON CAN  
FOLLOW!

IF NAMOR HAS  
RETURNED TO HIS  
RENEGADE WAYS,  
THEN ANY DEATHS  
HE MAY CAUSE  
WILL BE ON MY  
HEAD!

FOR, MAYBE WALT  
NEWELL NEVER HAD  
A CHANCE TO CAPTURE  
THE SUB-MARINER...

BUT THE  
STING-RAY  
DID...AND  
LET HIM  
GO!!\*

\*OUR SUBTLE  
WAY TO REMIND  
YOU OF  
ISSUE #18!  
--SMILEY.



THERE IS  
THE SUNKEN  
VESSEL--

--AT PRECISELY  
THE LATITUDE  
AND LONGITUDE  
DESCRIBED!



STILL, THE SHIP IN ITSELF PROVES NOTHING!

IT IS THE RAIDERS... AND THEIR CAPTIVES... WHOM I MUST FIND, IF I AM TO...

NO, THERE! STAND TO AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

WHO--?



I SAID, IDENTIFY YOURSELF... OR GET SET FOR AN ELECTRIC-BLAST YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

A BRIGHT-GARBED INTRUDER!

I KNOW WHO I AM, FELLOW!

IT IS YOU WHO SHALL FIRST NAME NAMES!



NOW I RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU'RE TRITON... ONE OF THE INHUMANS, AND A SOMETIME FRIEND OF NAMOR'S!

MY NAME'S WALT NEWELL... BETTER KNOWN IN THIS GET-UP AS STING-RAY!

AND I'VE GOT A MEAN HUNCH WE'RE HERE FOR THE SAME PURPOSE!

IF YOU MEAN TO PROVE THE GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF THE SUB-MARINER... YOU ARE PERCEPTIVE!

BUT I REMEMBER REPORTS OF HOW YOU ONCE BATTLED NAMOR....!



I DID... BUT LATER, I LET HIM GET AWAY FROM ME!

NOW, I SUGGEST WE CAN THE CHATTER... AND MAKE A PACT OF SORTS!

AGREED! IF NAMOR IS INNOCENT, WE SHALL PUNISH THE TRUE VILLAINS!

BUT IF HE IS GUILTY, THEN--



BAH! NEITHER OF YOU IS FIT TO JUDGE A PRINCE OF THE BLOOD!

HUH? SOMEBODY ELSE COMING TO JOIN OUR LITTLE TEACH-IN?



HAVE YOU SO **LOST** YOURSELVES IN YOUR DREAMS OF **SELFLESS GLORY...**

...THAT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THE ONE WHOSE BANNER YOU SEEK TO **UNBLEMISH?**

**NAMOR!** I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE! NOW WE CAN THRASH THIS OUT!

HEAR ME, MY FRIEND...



**NO, FRIENDS...** YOU SHALL LISTEN TO **ME!** I AM **MOVED** BY YOUR COMING HERE, MORE THAN IT MAY **SEEM!**

BUT THE **TREACHERY** THAT WAS DONE HERE TODAY IS FOR **NAMOR** TO AVENGE ...**NAMOR**, AND **NONE OTHER!**

THAT CAN COME **LATER, FELLA!**

FOR NOW, WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK WITH **ME**, TO ASSURE THE WORLD THAT YOU'RE **INNOCENT!**

A WORTHY **THOUGHT, NAMOR!**



**WHAT??** IS **THIS** WHY YOU SKULK TOGETHER IN THE BRINY OCEAN DEPTHS?

YOU WOULD SEEK TO DELIVER ME INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO **PERSECUTE** ME...THOSE WHO STAND EVER READY TO **CONDEMN** THE REALM ETERNAL WITHOUT **PROOF?**

IF **THAT** IS YOUR PLEA, THEN HEAR NOW **NAMOR'S ANSWER!**



**AND, THAT ANSWER IS-- NEVER!**



WAIT, ATLANTEAN! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

WE ARE NOT YOUR ENEMIES! WE MERELY--

WORDS! THE TIME IS PAST WHEN NAMOR CAN BE FOOLED BY WORDS!

WELL THEN, FISH-MAN, IF NAMES WILL NEVER HARM YOU...



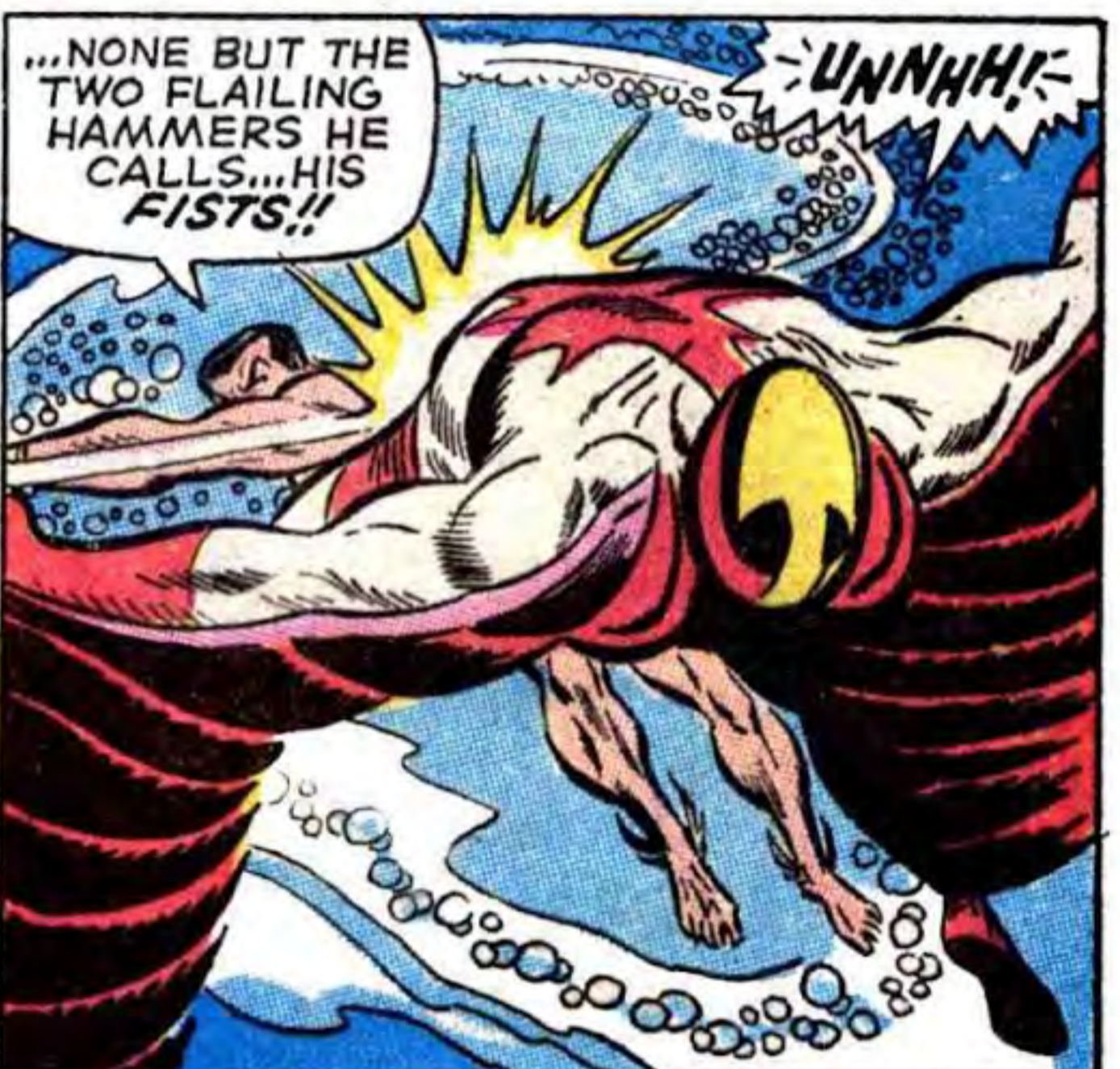
SZZRAA RTT!

...LET'S SEE IF STICKS AND STONES HAVE A SALUTORY EFFECT!



NOW, MR. HIGH-AND MIGHTY, LET'S POW-WOW FOR A WHILE, AND MAYBE YOU'LL LEARN WHO YOUR REAL FRIENDS ARE!

THE TRUE SUB-MARINER NEEDS NO FRIENDS, SURFACE-MAN...



...NONE BUT THE TWO FLAILING HAMMERS HE CALLS... HIS FISTS!!

UNNHH!



I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU CHOSE TO ATTACK US, NAMOR, IF YOU'RE TRULY GUILTLSS!

BUT, WE SHALL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER!

WHROON!

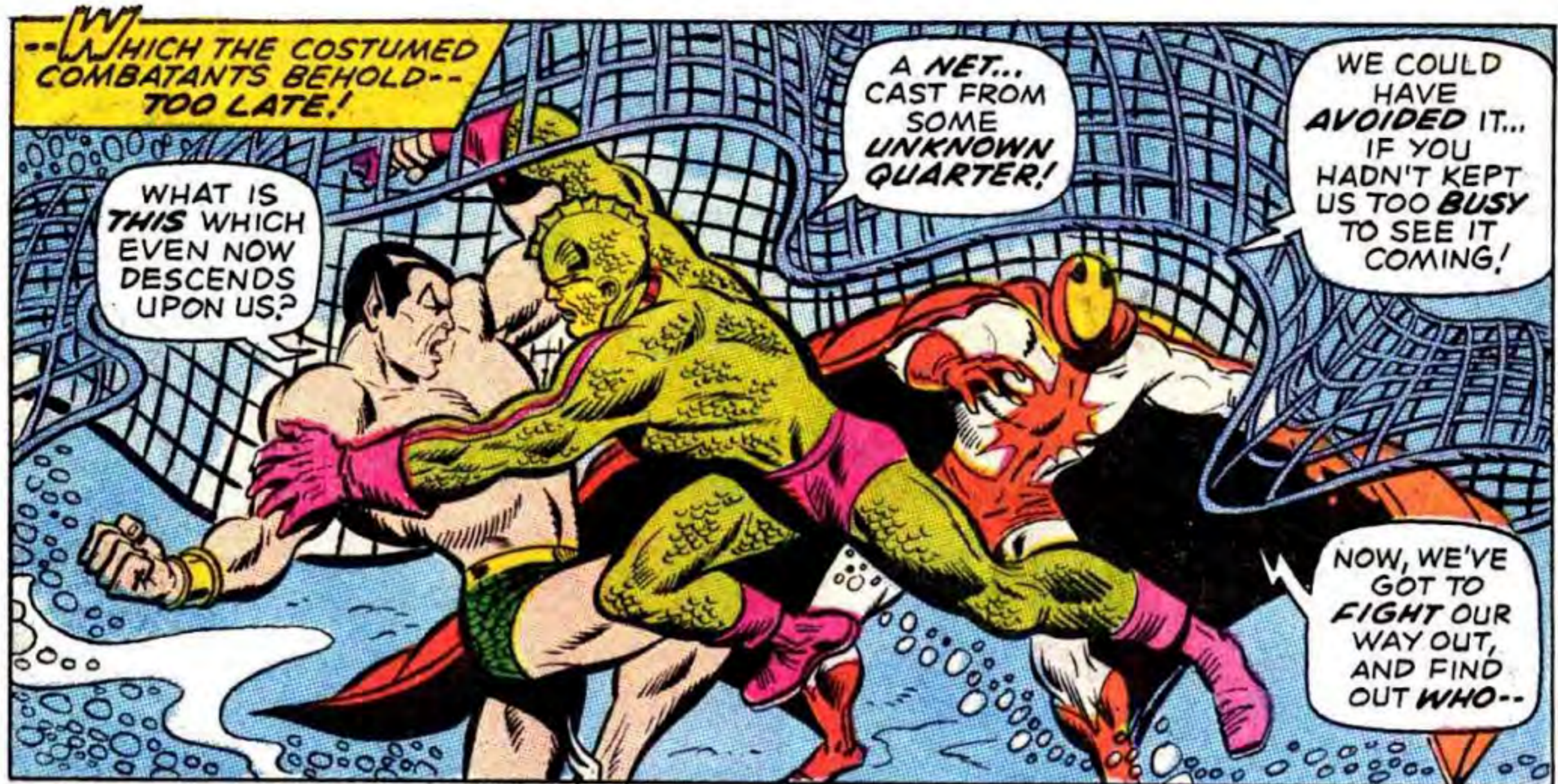


--IF THERE IS A LATER, TRITON, FOR ANY OF YOU!

SHROOSH

FOR, AT THAT EXACT INSTANT, FROM BEHIND A NEARBY CORAL REEF, A HIDDEN DEVICE FIRES A MAMMOTH NET--





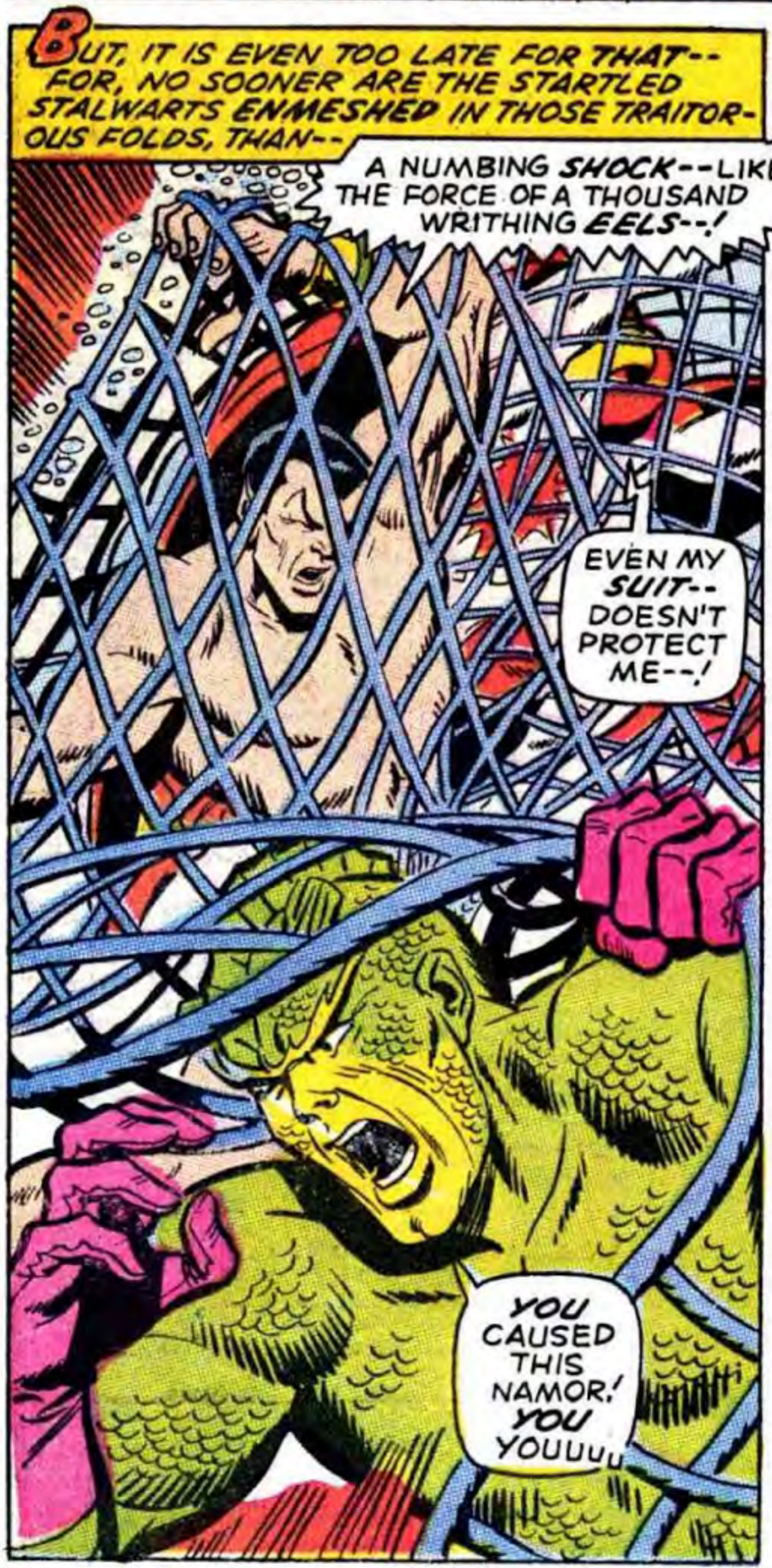
WHICH THE COSTUMED COMBATANTS BEHOLD-- TOO LATE!

WHAT IS THIS WHICH EVEN NOW DESCENDS UPON US?

A NET... CAST FROM SOME UNKNOWN QUARTER!

WE COULD HAVE AVOIDED IT... IF YOU HADN'T KEPT US TOO BUSY TO SEE IT COMING!

NOW, WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT, AND FIND OUT WHO--



BUT, IT IS EVEN TOO LATE FOR THAT-- FOR, NO SOONER ARE THE STARTLED STALWARTS ENMESHED IN THOSE TRAITOROUS FOLDS, THAN--

A NUMBING SHOCK-- LIKE THE FORCE OF A THOUSAND WRITHING EELS--!

EVEN MY SUIT-- DOESN'T PROTECT ME--!

YOU CAUSED THIS NAMOR! YOU YOUUUU



HAH! IT WOULD HAVE GREATLY PLEASED OUR MASTER TO VIEW WHAT JUST TRANSPIRED!

NAMOR AND HIS SOMETIME ALLIES BATTLING, LIKE THREE SHARKS OVER SOME WAYWARD SQUID...

...WHILE WE WAITED IN THE MURKY SHADOWS...



...TO TRANSFORM VICTOR AND VANQUISHED ALIKE... INTO VICTIMS!

**D**REAM ON, NAMOR... TRITON... AND BRASH SURFACE-DWELLER... UNTIL THE MYSTERY-SHROUDED CRAFT HAS CARRIED YOU MANY LEAGUES THRU THE EVER-SHIFTING CURRENTS...



...AND UNTIL THE SIDE OF A VAST SUB-SEA MOUNTAIN OPENS WIDE ITS GIGANTIC MAW... AND SWALLOWS YOU AS THE WHALE GULPS IN THE MINNOW...!



**T**HEN, AT LAST... AWAKEN...!

MY HEAD!  
WHAT PLACE  
IS THIS--?

YOU SURE YOU DON'T  
KNOW, HARDHEAD?

I'M HALF INCLINED  
TO BELIEVE YOU  
SET US UP FOR  
THIS DEAL!



NO, AIR-BREATHER! FOR,  
IS HE NOT--A CAPTIVE  
JUST AS WE ARE?

THAT WAS SOME  
KIND OF FORCE  
FIELD THAT  
HURLED YOU  
BACK, NAMOR!  
I CAN SEE IT  
NOW!

AS DO I! BUT  
WHO IS  
THE HUNTER  
THAT HAS  
MADE US HIS  
QUARRY?

YOU  
STILL  
HAVE NOT  
GUESSED,  
ATLANTEAN?

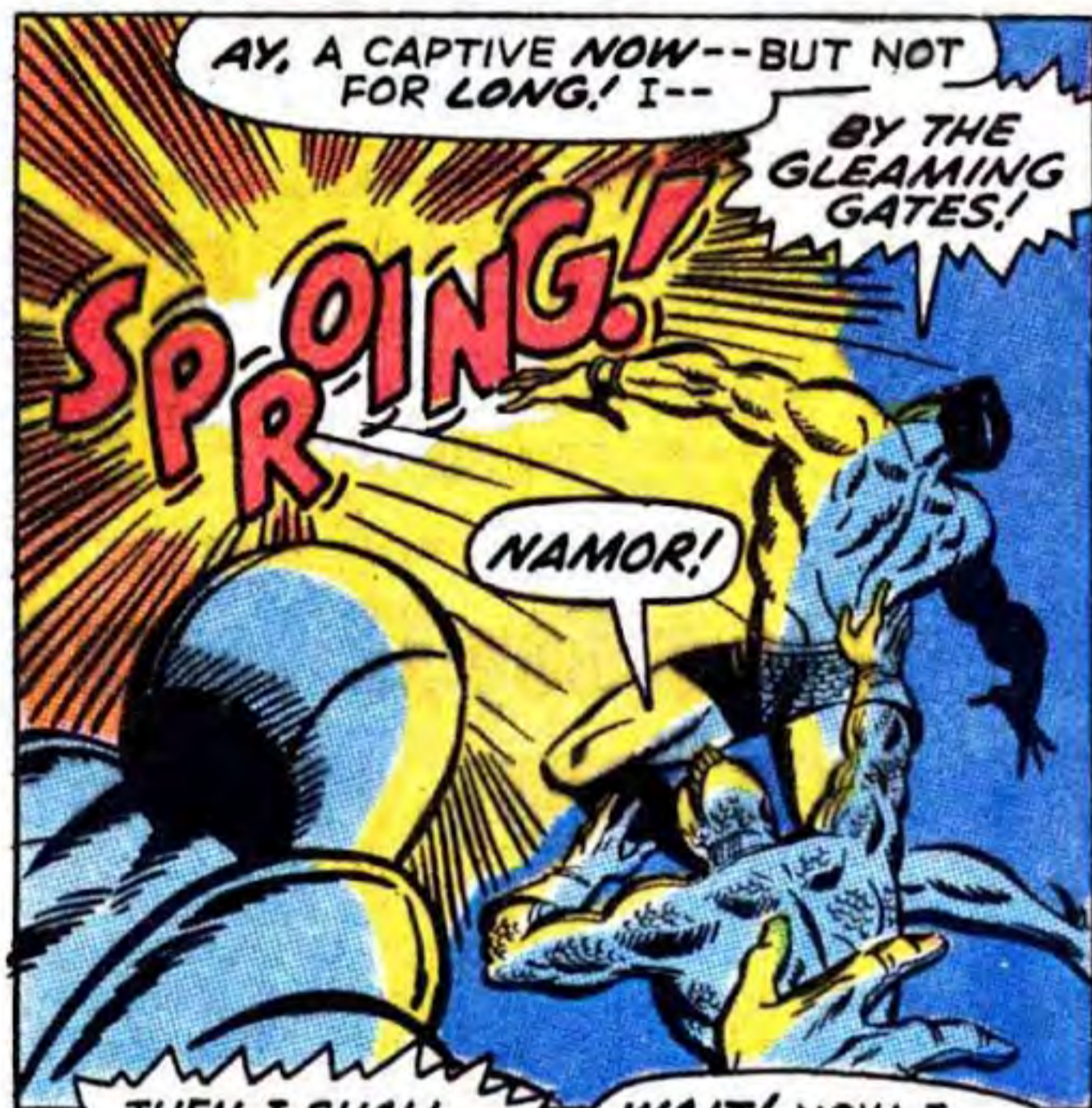


AY, A CAPTIVE NOW-- BUT NOT  
FOR LONG! I--

BY THE  
GLEAMING  
GATES!

**SPRING!**

NAMOR!



THEN I SHALL  
REVEAL MYSELF--  
SO YOU MAY KNOW  
WHO HAS THUS  
HUMBLED YOU!

WAIT! NOW I  
KNOW THAT VOICE  
-- THAT BRUTISH,  
BARBARIAN TONE!

DON'T KEEP US  
IN SUSPENSE,  
POINTY-EARS!

FILL IN  
YOUR  
ERSTWHILE  
ALLIES!



**B**UT THEN, NAMOR'S ANSWER BECOMES ACADEMIC... AS TWO MASSIVE PANELS PART, AND TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES STRIDE ARROGANTLY FORTH....!

FINISH THEM NOW, MY LORD... NOW!

GIVE THEM NO CHANCE TO CONSPIRE AGAINST YOU!

FOOL! CAN'T YOU SEE THEY ARE MY HELPLESS, HOPELESS CAPTIVES?

WHAT HARM CAN THE LIKE OF THESE DO THE MIGHTY ATTUMA?



ATTUMA! AY, NAMOR WAS TRULY A MINDLESS SEA ANEMONE NOT TO HAVE SENSED YOUR HEAVY HAND BEHIND ALL THIS!

IT DOES NO GOOD TO RAIL AGAINST YOUR OLD FOE NOW, NAMOR!

WHO BUT YOU AND YOUR BARBARIAN HORDES WOULD PROFIT, IF ATLANTIS AND THE SURFACE WORLD WENT TO WAR?!!

EASY, MAN!



YOUR FELLOW PRISONERS ARE FAR SMARTER THAN YOU, GOOD PRINCE!

...THOUGH HARDLY SMART ENOUGH TO AVOID THE TRAP WHICH I HAD ORIGINALLY SET FOR YOU ALONE!

YES, I KNEW YOU WOULD SOON VISIT THE SITE OF THE SUNKEN VESSEL... AND I VOWED THAT IT WOULD BE YOUR LAST STATE VISIT!

BUT NOW, BECAUSE IT PLEASES ME TO SEE YOU RANT AND RAVE IN RECKLESS FURY...

I SHALL SHOW ON THIS VIEWSCREEN WHY YOU WILL NEVER BEST ME AGAIN...

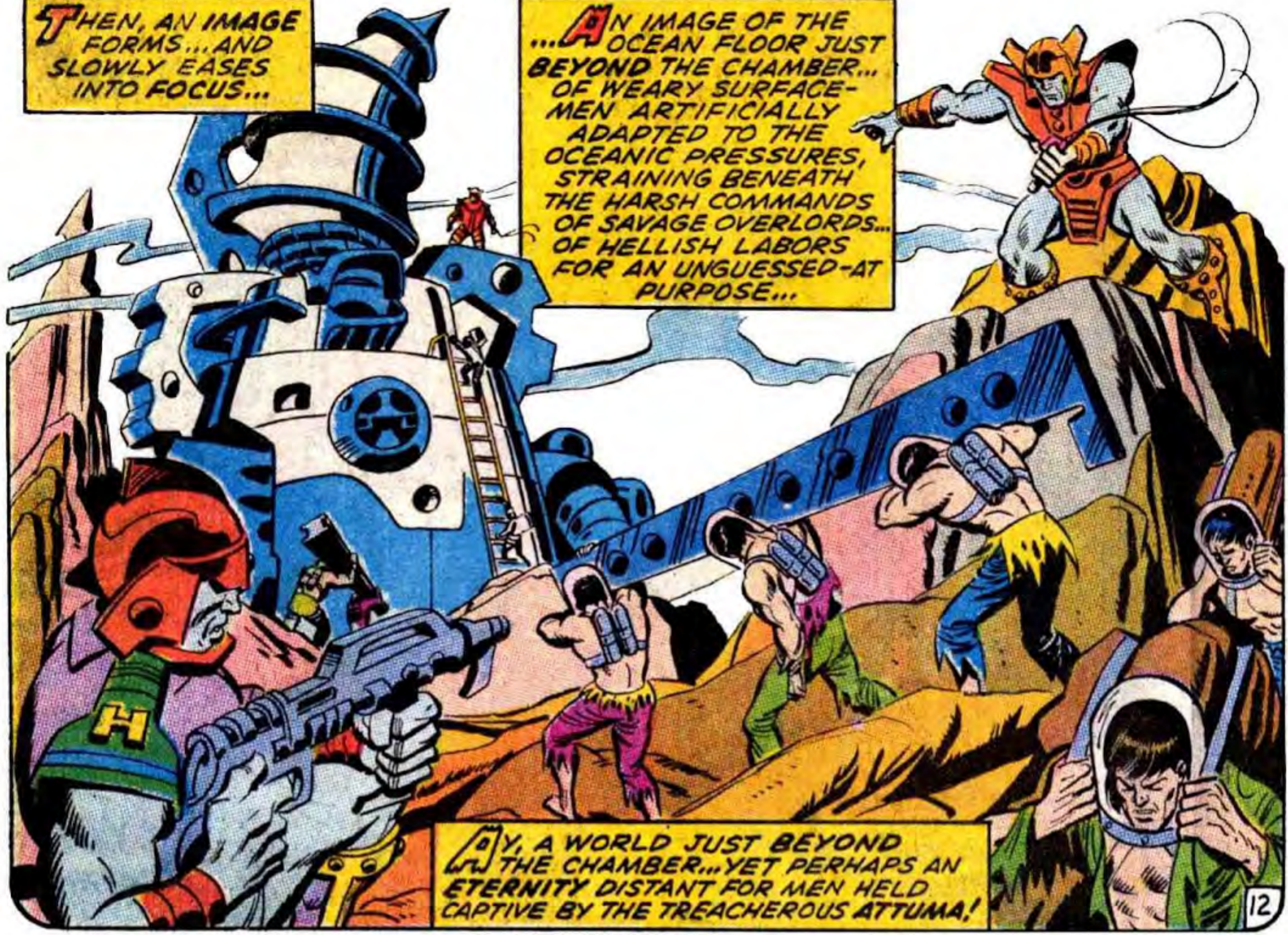
...WHY YOU WOULD NOT DARE RAISE YOUR ROYAL HAND AGAINST ME, EVEN WERE THE FORCE FIELD REMOVED!



YES, MASTER, YES! SHOW THEM... SHOW THEM!

THEN, AN IMAGE FORMS... AND SLOWLY EASES INTO FOCUS...

...AN IMAGE OF THE OCEAN FLOOR JUST BEYOND THE CHAMBER... OF WEARY SURFACE-MEN ARTIFICIALLY ADAPTED TO THE OCEANIC PRESSURES, STRAINING BENEATH THE HARSH COMMANDS OF SAVAGE OVERLORDS... OF HELLISH LABORS FOR AN UNGUESSED-AT PURPOSE...



BY, A WORLD JUST BEYOND THE CHAMBER... YET PERHAPS AN ETERNITY DISTANT FOR MEN HELD CAPTIVE BY THE TREACHEROUS ATTUMA!

AH... I SEE YOUR CURIOSITY IS WHETTED BY THE STRANGE DEVICE ON WHICH THE MEN WORK!  
I SHALL TELL YOU OF THAT... BUT FIRST, DEAR NAMOR, I WANT YOU TO SEE...



IKTHON!

YES, NAMOR... AND HERE IS STILL ANOTHER HOSTAGE AGAINST YOUR THOUGHTLESS WRATH!



IF YOU VALUE NOT THE LIVES OF OTHER AIR-BREATHERS, NAMOR-- WHAT OF THIS ONE?



DIANE ARLISS! YOU HAVE DRAWN THE NOOSE TIGHTLY, ATTUMA!  
BUT WHAT DO YOU INTEND-- THAT YOU HAVE LAID YOUR PLANS MORE CAREFULLY THAN EVER BEFORE?



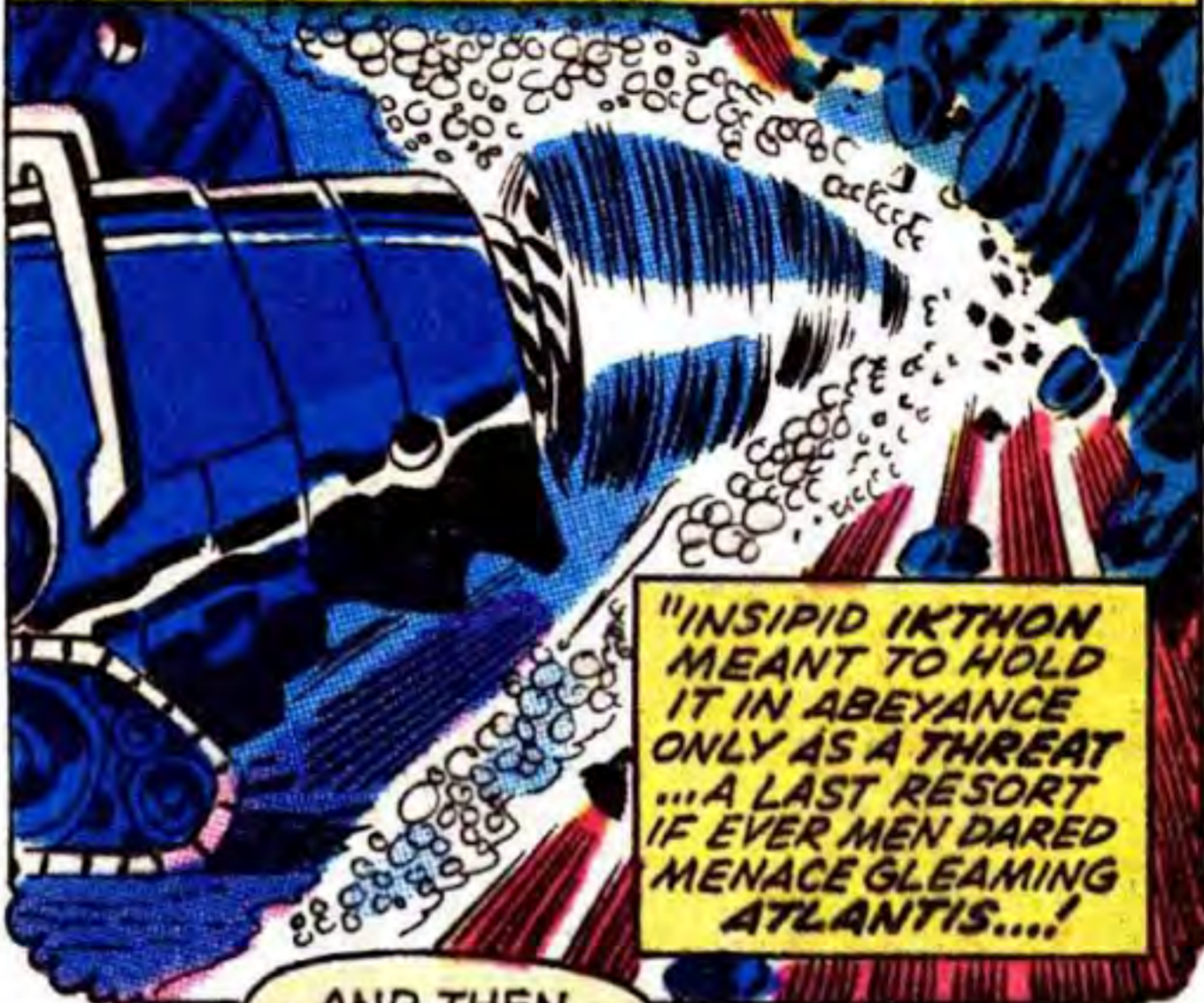
TELL ME, EVIL ONE! TELL ME!!

YOUR GAINLESS GROVELING ILL BECOMES SO ILLUSTRIOUS A MONARCH, GOOD PRINCE... BUT LISTEN WELL!

THE DEVIL-MACHINE YOU BEHELD WAS A RECENT INVENTION OF LOYAL IKTHON'S -- WHICH WE STOLE HIM TO OBTAIN!



"AN EARTH-BORER IT IS... ONE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SHATTER, FROM BENEATH, EVEN THE SOLID STONE ON WHICH IS BUILT SUCH AN ISLAND AS MANHATTAN!"



"INSIPID IKTHON MEANT TO HOLD IT IN ABEYANCE ONLY AS A THREAT ... A LAST RESORT IF EVER MEN DARED MENACE GLEAMING ATLANTIS...!"

"BUT IMAGINE THE HORROR... THE HAVOC IT SHALL WREAK WHEN THE HANDS OF ATTUMA DO GUIDE IT FROM AFAR!"



IN DUE TIME, OF COURSE, I SHALL LET IT BE CAPTURED...



...AND THEN SHALL THE DAMNING FINGER OF SUSPICION POINT AT YOU, DEAR NAMOR!

THEN SHALL AIR-BREATHER AND ATLANTEAN CLASH... FOR ONE FINAL, ALL-DESTROYING TIME...

...AND ATTUMA SHALL BUILD HIS NEW EMPIRE ON THE CRUMBLING RUINS WHICH AFTERWARD REMAIN!

BUT ENOUGH! I GROW WEARY OF EXPLAINING THINGS TO MEN WHO SHALL SOON BE DEAD!

NAMOR... TO THINK SUCH A FIEND IS ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE...!

NOT OF MINE, FOOL! HIS LACKEYS ARE BARBARIANS BORN...



...DISOWNED BY US SINCE TIME BEYOND RECKONING!

GREAT MASTER... SEE HOW THE THREE OUTLANDISH ONES YET SNARL AT ONE ANOTHER!

I SEE YOUR DRIFT, SARU-SAN! YOU ARE, AS EVER, FAR MORE THAN MERE COURT JESTER!

PERHAPS THEY COULD FURNISH A BIT OF DIVERSION, FOR YOUR HARD-WORKING OVERSEERS...!



WE SHALL HAVE A TOURNAMENT!

LET THE WORD GO FORTH...LET GREAT CONCH-TRUMPETS BLARE...AND SOON, LET A VAST SUNKEN ARENA BE FILLED TO OVERFLOWING WITH THE BARBARIAN VASSALS OF TRIUMPHANT ATTUMA...!



EVIL ONE... WHY DO YOU KEEP ME IMPRISONED THUS, ALONGSIDE TWO WHO ARE UNWORTHY OF MY NOTICE?

UNWORTHY? BEWARE, NAMOR, OR...

SILENCE! IT IS ATTUMA WHO REIGNS HERE!

NOW BEGIN... OR I DESTROY YOU ALL!

YOU THREE SHALL DO BATTLE FOR MY PLEASURE... THE LONE SURVIVOR TO BECOME MY PERSONAL SLAVE!

YOU'LL DOUBTLESS DEFEAT US BOTH, ATLANTEAN... BUT I DO NOT ENVY YOUR ROLE AS ATTUMA'S BONDSMAN!

QUIET, BOTH! YOU MUST DO AS NAMOR DOES...

WITHOUT QUALM... WITHOUT QUESTION!

HUH? WHAT THE DEVIL--? AFTER THE WAY YOU--



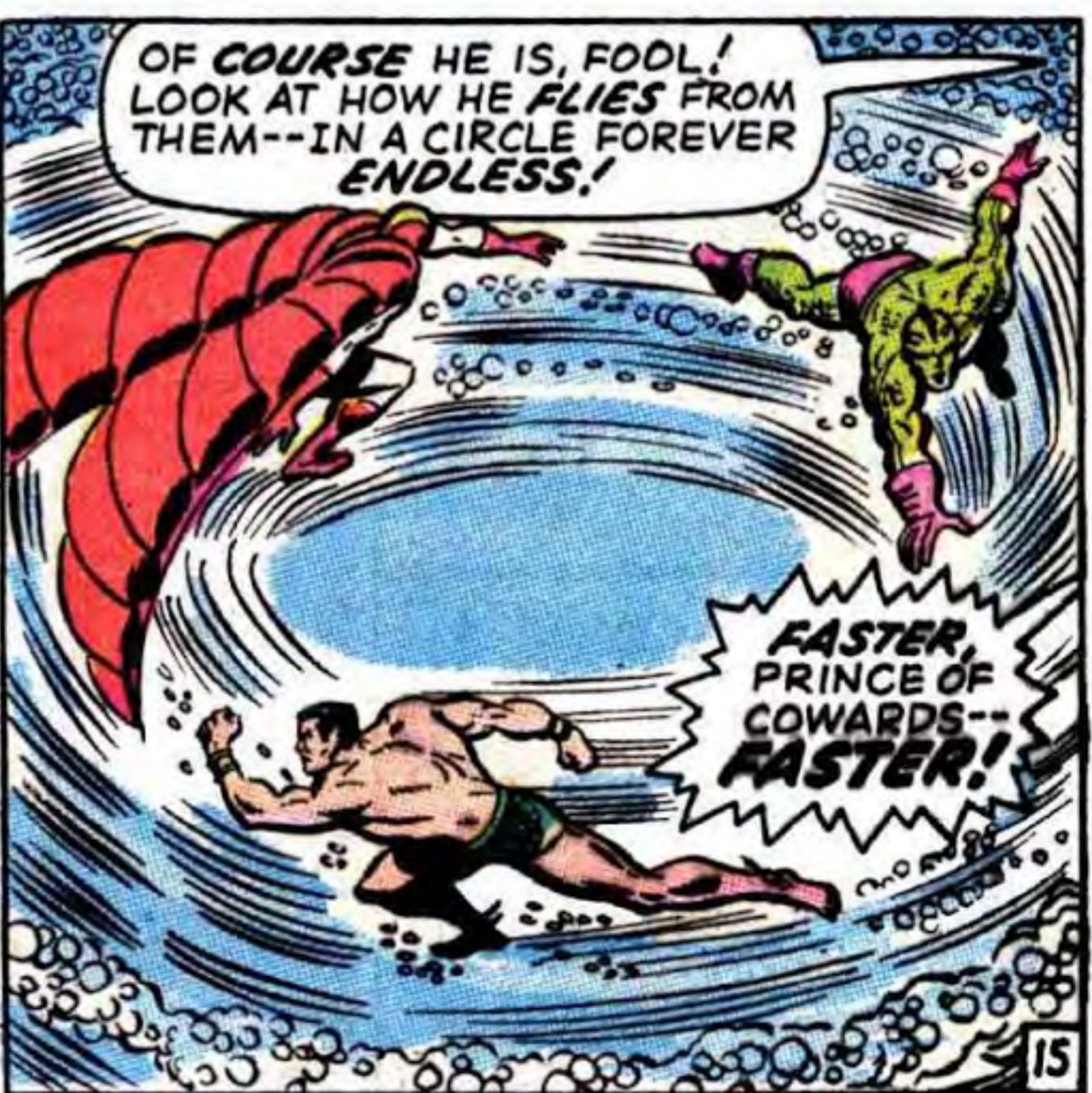
LOOK, GREAT ONE, HOW THE SUB-MARINER BEGINS TO FLEE THE OTHER TWO!

HAH! I ALWAYS KNEW THAT HE WAS THE BASEST OF COWARDS!

OF COURSE HE IS, FOOL! LOOK AT HOW HE FLIES FROM THEM--IN A CIRCLE FOREVER ENDLESS!



IS HE, MASTER? IS HE??

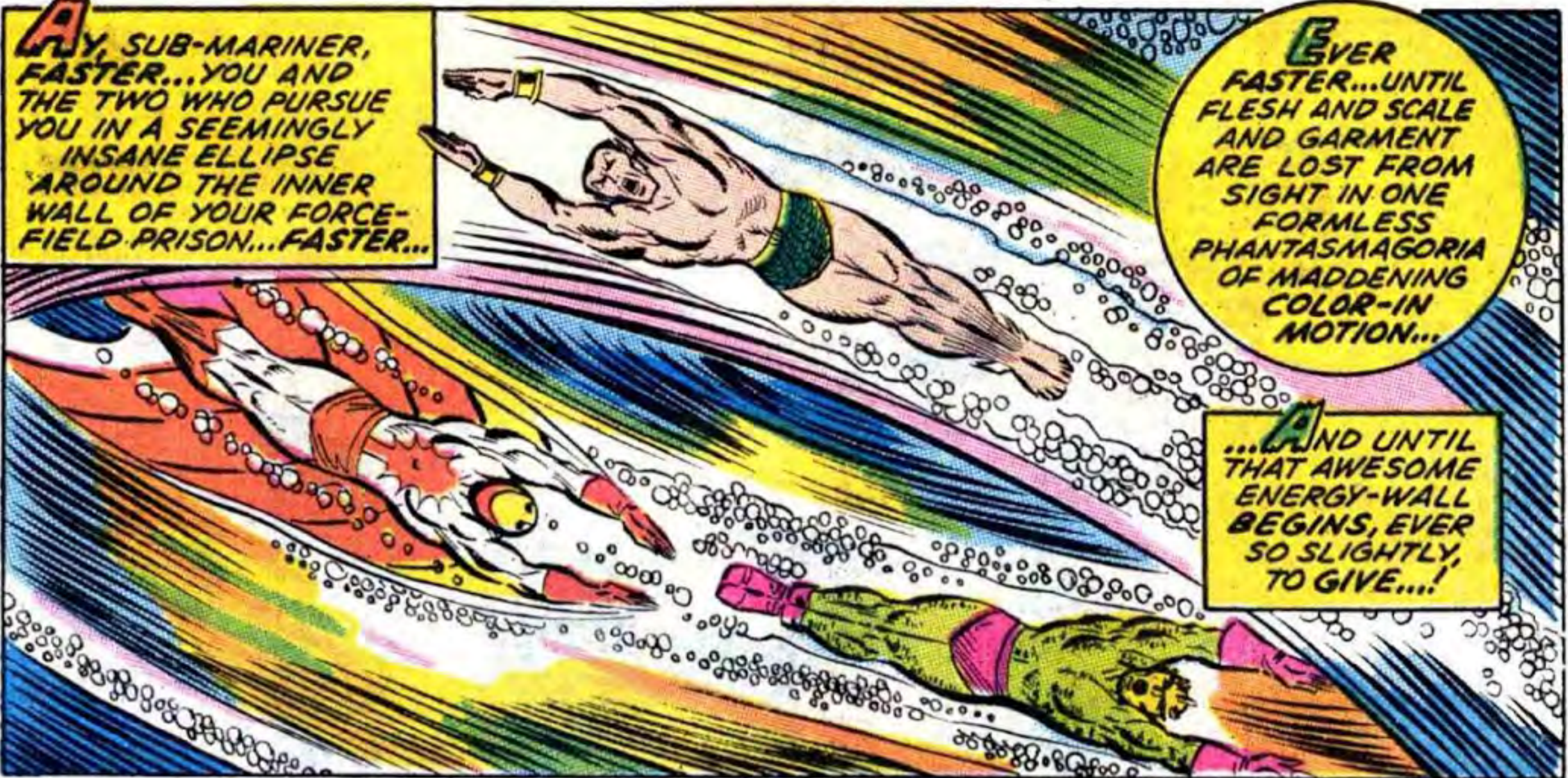


FASTER, PRINCE OF COWARDS-- FASTER!

**A**Y, SUB-MARINER, FASTER... YOU AND THE TWO WHO PURSUE YOU IN A SEEMINGLY INSANE ELLIPSE AROUND THE INNER WALL OF YOUR FORCE-FIELD PRISON... FASTER...

**E**VER FASTER... UNTIL FLESH AND SCALE AND GARMENT ARE LOST FROM SIGHT IN ONE FORMLESS PHANTASMAGORIA OF MADDENING COLOR-IN MOTION...

...AND UNTIL THAT AWESOME ENERGY-WALL BEGINS, EVER SO SLIGHTLY, TO GIVE...!



WHAT LUNACY IS THIS?

I STRANGELY FEAR, GREAT ONE-- THAT IT IS NOT LUNACY AT ALL!

MASTER! THE FORCE-FIELD! IT IS ABOUT TO--



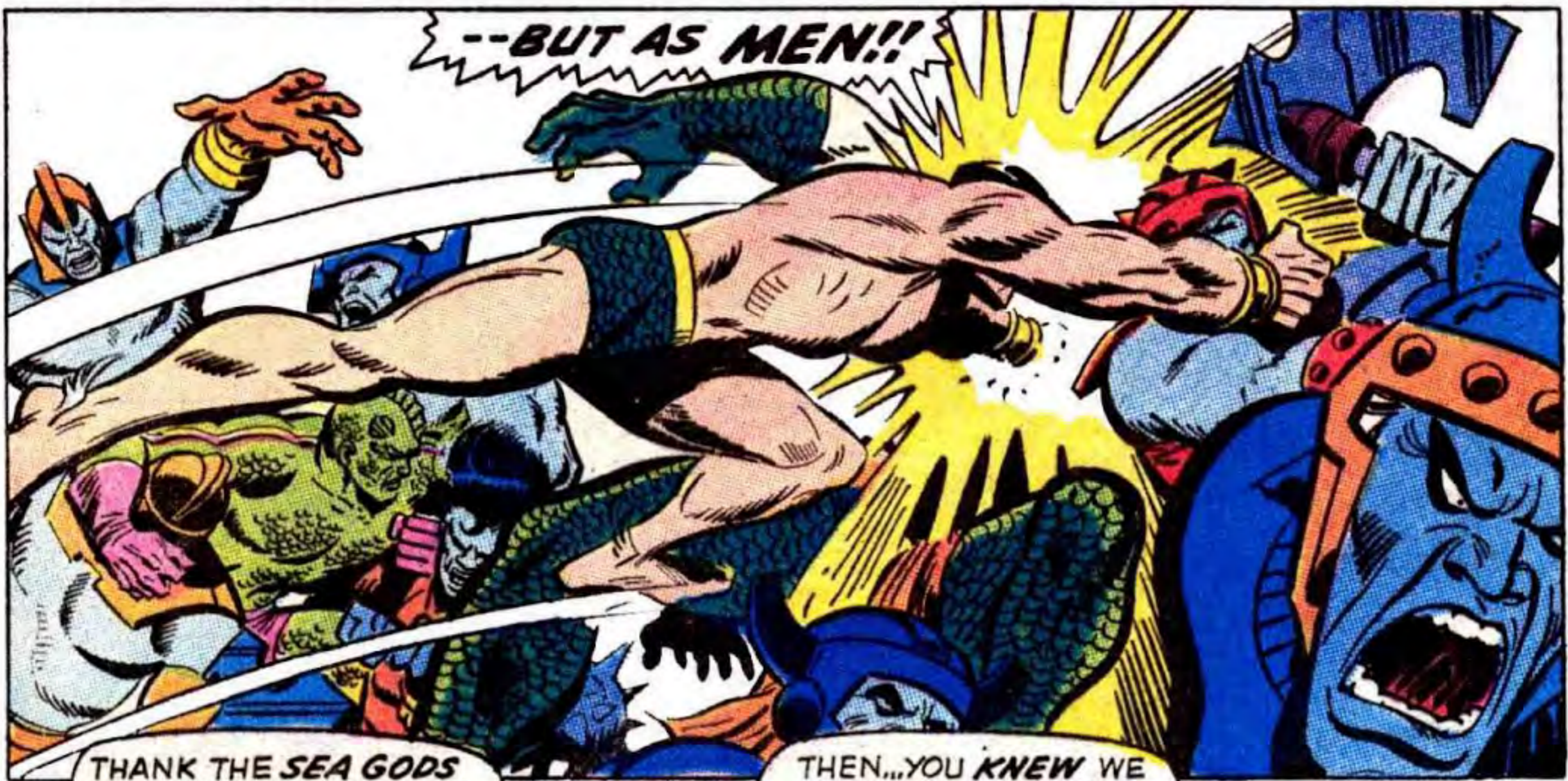
**E**XPLODE? IS THAT THE WORD FOR WHICH THE CRAVEN COURT-JESTER GROPE IN TERROR? WE SHALL NEVER KNOW-- FOR, AT THAT VERY INSTANT--



YOUR CRAZY HUNCH WORKED, FISH-MAN! WE'RE FREE!

FREE TO PERISH, YOU MEAN! YOU'LL STILL MEET YOUR DOOM WITHIN THESE WALLS!

PERHAPS, USURPER! BUT IF SO, WE'LL MEET THAT DOOM NOT AS SLAVES... AND NOT AS CRINGING SERFS...

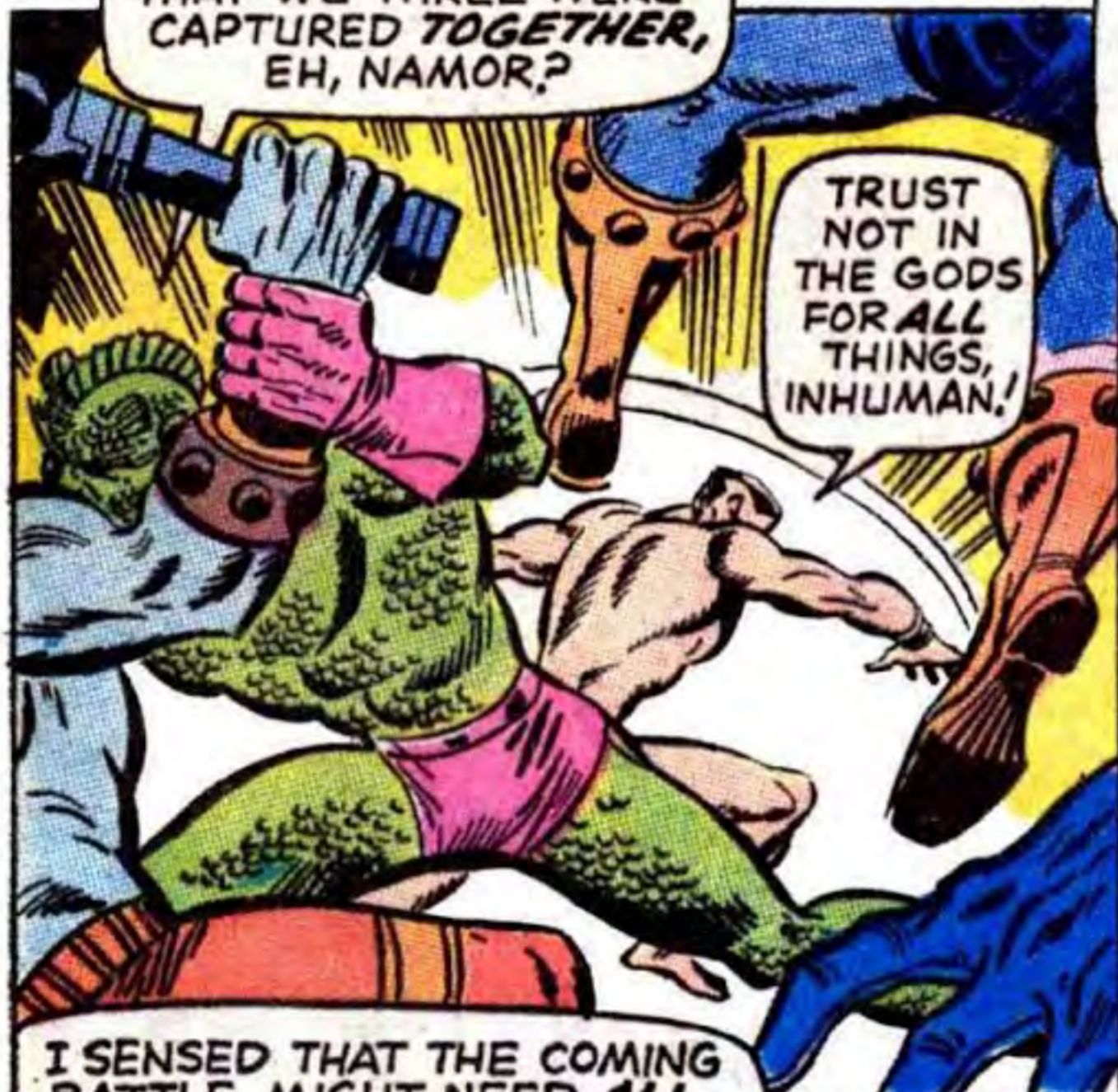


-- BUT AS MEN!!

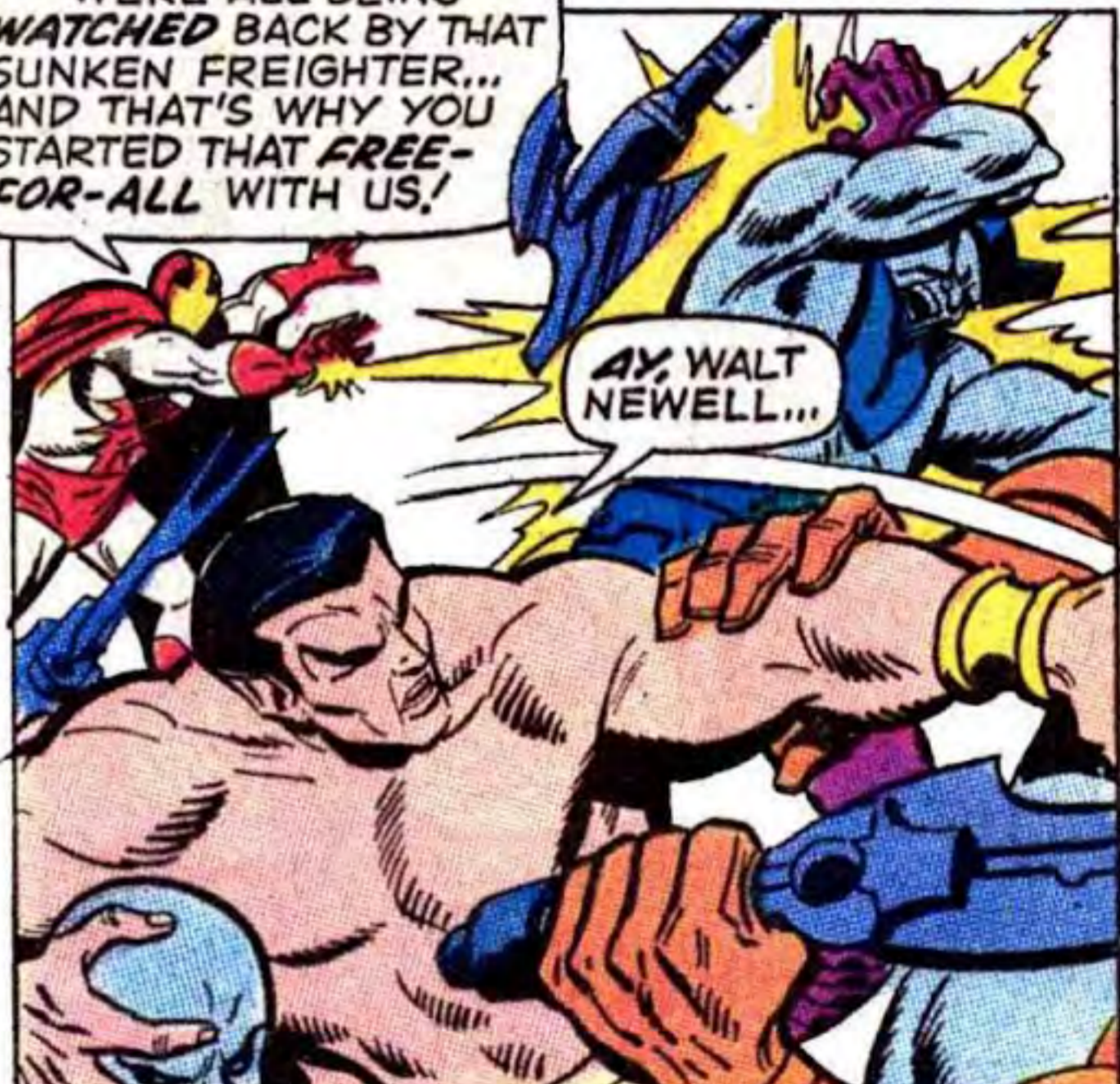
THANK THE *SEA GODS* THAT WE THREE WERE CAPTURED *TOGETHER*, EH, NAMOR?

THEN... YOU *KNEW* WE WERE ALL BEING *WATCHED* BACK BY THAT SUNKEN FREIGHTER... AND THAT'S WHY YOU STARTED THAT *FREE-FOR-ALL* WITH US!

TRUST NOT IN THE GODS FOR ALL THINGS, INHUMAN!



I SENSED THAT THE COMING BATTLE MIGHT NEED *ALL* OUR POWERS... IF WE WERE TO HAVE A CHANCE AT *VICTORY!*



AY, WALT NEWELL...



NO FUZZY CRYSTAL BALL THERE, FELLA!

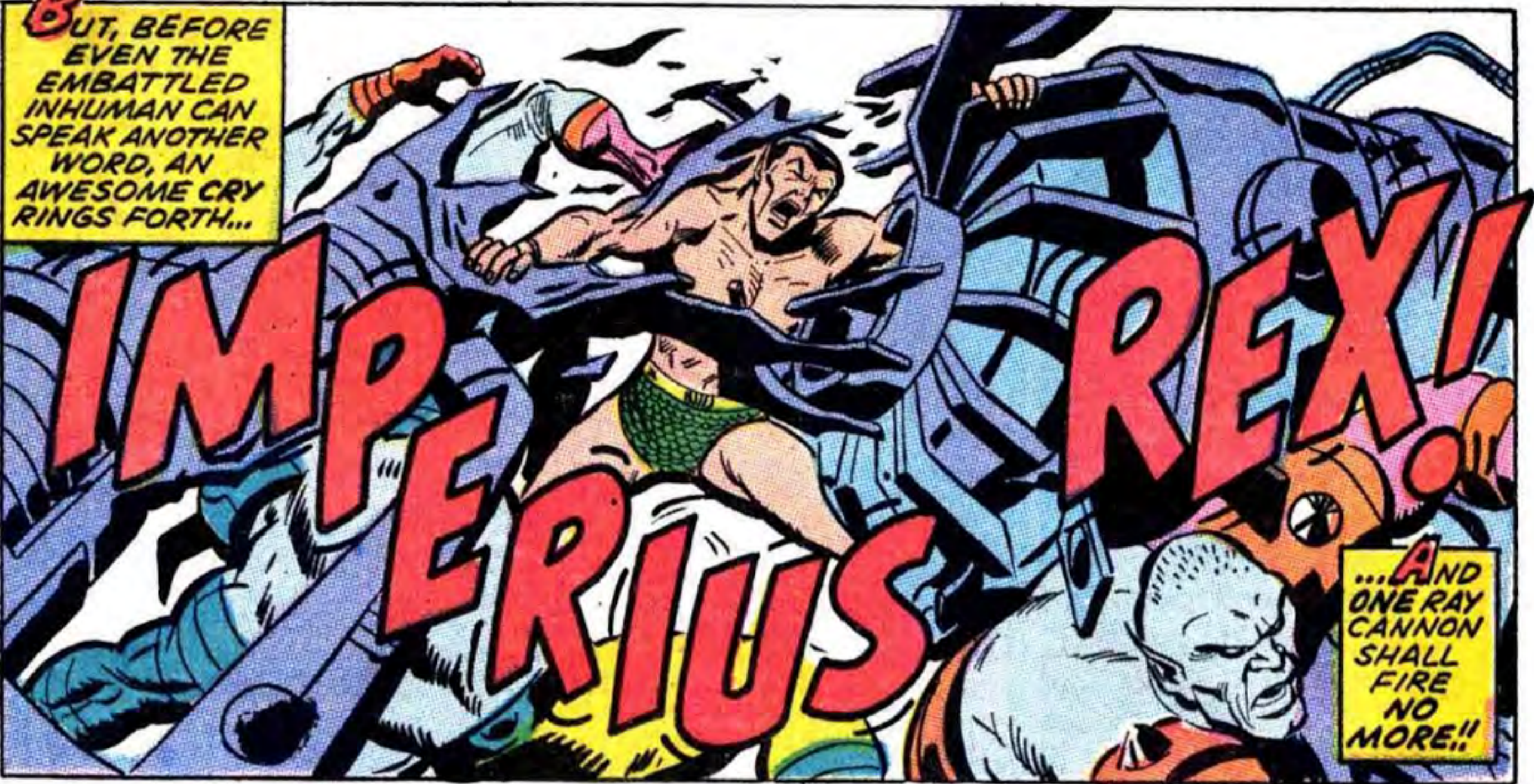


*JUST* THEN, FROM OUT OF NOWHERE, A RAY BLAST MISSES THE FIGHTING TRIO BY FATHOMS...

STAND CLEAR! LET TRITON--



**B**UT, BEFORE EVEN THE EMBATTLED INHUMAN CAN SPEAK ANOTHER WORD, AN AWESOME CRY RINGS FORTH...



# IMPERIUS REX!

...AND ONE RAY CANNON SHALL FIRE NO MORE!!



THE HEART IS GONE FROM MY LACKEYS! THEY ALREADY FIGHT LIKE MEN DEFEATED!

WERE THERE EVER THREE WHO FOUGHT SO LIKE A THOUSAND?



THERE IS BUT ONE HOPE FOR ATTUMA--ONE CHANCE--!

YES, MASTER--THIS WAY LIES ESCAPE!

OUT OF MY WAY, FOOL!

IT IS NOT ESCAPE FOR WHICH ATTUMA THIRSTS--BUT ONLY REVENGE!!



VICTORY, ATLANTEAN! THOSE BARBARIANS WHO HAVE NOT FALLEN BEFORE US--HAVE FLED IN PANIC!

NO, TRITON! NOT VICTORY--NOT WHILE ATTUMA STILL REMAINS UNFETTERED!



YOU ARE WISER THAN I DEEMED YOU, NAMOR-- BUT LITTLE GOOD SHALL IT DO EITHER YOU--OR THE WORLD ABOVE!!

**No!**

YES, PRINCE OF A DOOMED REALM! FOR EVEN YOU CANNOT HALT THE **EARTH-BORER** WHEN IT BEGINS ITS UPWARD THRUST!

AND IN THE WAKE OF RUINED SURFACE CITIES SHALL COME **WARS--AND THE HORRORS OF WAR!**



NO, ATTUMA! STOP!

PULL THAT LEVER--AND YOU DESTROY A DREAM!

AWAY FROM ME, BLUBBERING IKTHON!



WHAT CARE I FOR THE PLODDING **PEACE-DREAMS** OF THE WORLD'S MASSES?

I CARE ONLY FOR THE DREAM OF **ATTUMA!**

**ATTUMA!**



**ATTUMA**

BY THE SWIRLING MAELSTROM!

THE DEVIL-MACHINE EXPLODED--BLASTED ITSELF INTO ATOMS!



IKTHON! ARE YOU YET ALIVE? WHAT HAPPENED--?

JUST--WHAT I WARNED WOULD HAPPEN--MY PRINCE!

I HAD SECRETLY--DESIGNED THE BORER--TO EXPLODE WHEN ACTIVATED--NO MATTER WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES TO US!

THUS--ATTUMA DID DESTROY A DREAM--HIS OWN DREAM OF BLOOD-BUGHT POWER!

SOON, WHEN ONE OF THE BARBARIANS' FEW UNDAMAGED CRAFT IS FREED FROM WRECKAGE AND RUBBLE...

NAMOR!  
WALT TOLD ME EVERYTHING!

I WAS SO AFRAID-- THAT YOU HAD BEEN KILLED!

MY SEPULCHER 'NEATH THE SOUNDING SEA IS NOT YET CARVED, DIANE ARLISS!

BUT IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU--IF IT HAD--

SPEAK NO FURTHER, DIANE...OR YOU SAY WORDS NEITHER OF US SHOULD HEAR!

HURRY, DIANE! WE'VE GOT TO HEAD THIS CRATE FOR HOME, AND THEN TELL THE WORLD WHAT OCCURRED HERE...

OR DID YOU FORGET THAT I HAVE PLIGHTED MY TROTH TO ANOTHER?

NO, NAMOR... NO, I DIDN'T... FORGET...!

...SO THERE MAY FINALLY BE A LASTING PEACE BETWEEN OUR TWO TROUBLED PEOPLES!

AY... PEACE...!

THAT MOST FRAGILE FLOWER... WHICH EVEN 'NEATH THE SEA MUST BE NURTURED AND SAFEGUARDED FROM EACH SHIFTING CURRENT!

I TOO MUST TAKE MY LEAVE, NAMOR!

HE DOES NOT HEAR ME... SO LOST IN THOUGHT IS HE!

WE MUST GO, MY PRINCE! BESIDES, YOU STAND TOO NEAR YON BLACK AND YAWNING ABYSS!

THE ABYSS...!

MANKIND STANDS EVER AT THE EDGE OF SUCH AN ABYSS, IKTHON!

OFFTIMES, IT SEEMS FAR EASIER TO TOPPLE INTO IT, THAN TO TURN AWAY!

BUT COME... SUCH THOUGHTS ARE NOT FIT FOR A PRINCE OF THE GOLDEN REALM!

I HOPE THE LIGHTS OF FAIR ATLANTIS ARE BRIGHT THIS DAY, IKTHON...VERY, VERY BRIGHT...!