

Greetings, Pilgrim. In our past TREASURY EDITIONS, you've sampled tales featuring Spidey's greatest ARTISTS, the F.F.'s greatest FOES...now savor the Son of Odin's greatest SINGLE ADVENTURE; a 92 page spectacular featuring the never-to-be-forgotten battle between the Mighty THOR and the Heroic HERCULES, collected in its entirety (minus an extraneous *sub-plot* or two) from THOR #125-130! It's pomp and pageantry at its GALAXY-SPANNING BEST, and it begins—

# WHEN MEET THE IMMORTALS!

**FEATURING:  
THE  
COMING  
OF  
HERCULES!**

**CHAPTER  
I**

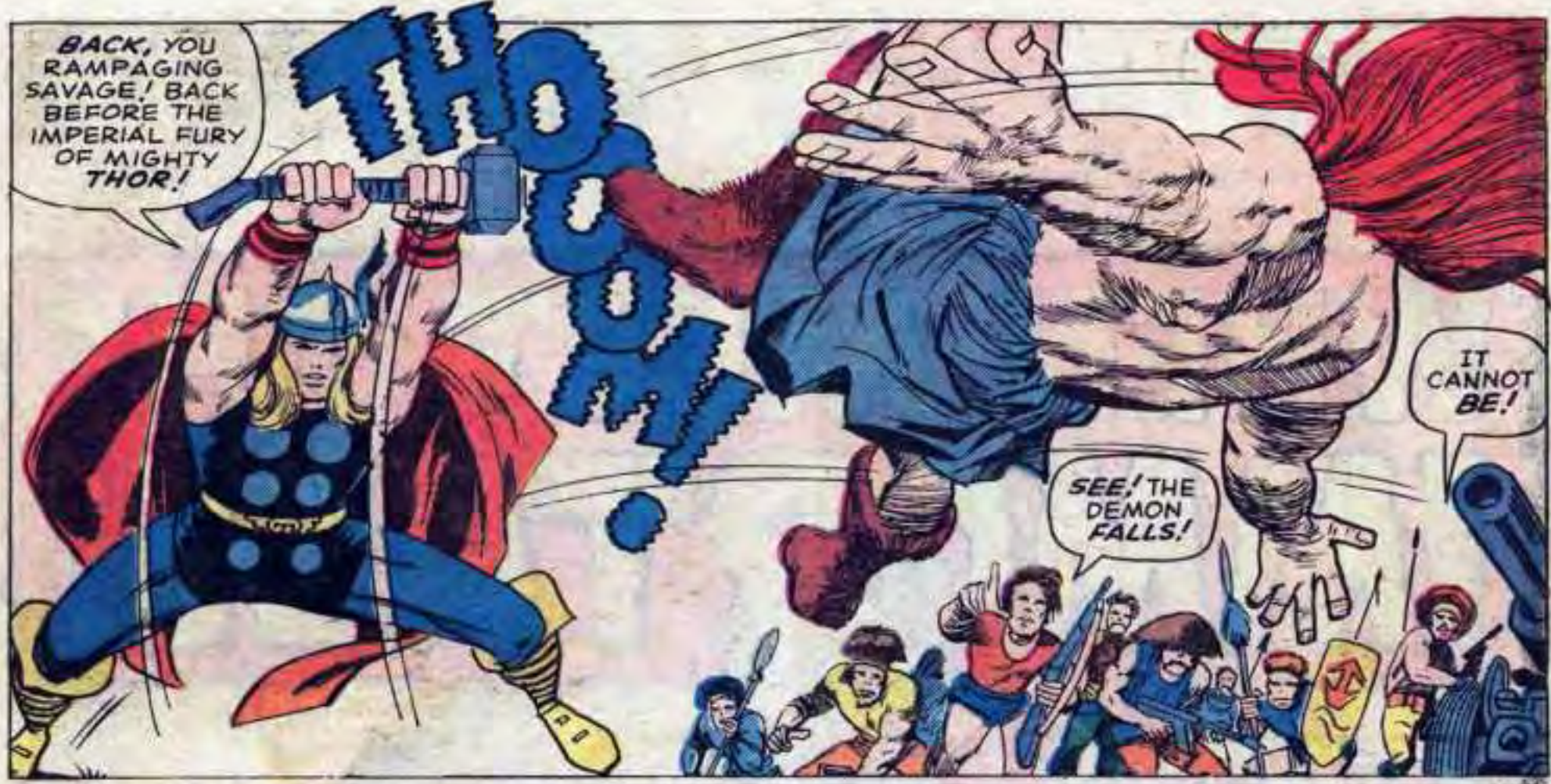
**DID YOU EVER  
SAMPLE AN INSTANT  
SYNOPSIS? TRY THIS--!**  
A WITCH DOCTOR FOUND  
ONE OF THOR'S LOST MORN  
STONES!  
ITS POWER CHANGED HIM  
INTO THE DREADED DEMON!  
(THE WITCH DOCTOR, NOT THOR!)  
THOR HAS TO DEFEAT  
HIM AND REGAIN THE  
ENCHANTED STONE!  
**THERE!  
HOWZAT?**

**BOMBASTICALLY  
WRITTEN BY  
STAN LEE**

**BRILLIANTLY DRAWN  
BY  
JACK KIRBY**

**BEAUTIFULLY INKED  
BY  
VINCE COLLETTA**

**BASHFULLY  
LETTERED BY  
ARTIE SIMEK**



BACK, YOU RAMPAGING SAVAGE! BACK BEFORE THE IMPERIAL FURY OF MIGHTY THOR!

IT CANNOT BE!

SEE! THE DEMON FALLS!



AROUND YOUR NECK HANGS AN ENCHANTED NORN STONE! ITS PLACE IS IN ASGARD-- NOT HERE!

RETURN IT TO ME, AND MAYHAP I SHALL LIGHTEN THE WEIGHT OF MY THUNDEROUS ANGER!

NEVER! THIS STONE HAS GIVEN ME POWER! POWER SUCH AS NO MAN HAS EVER KNOWN! IT WILL ALWAYS BE MINE!



NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE--NO MATTER WHAT YOU CALL YOURSELF--NO MAN'S STRENGTH CAN EQUAL THE DEMON'S!



THEN STILL YOU DO NOT FULLY COMPREHEND!

'TIS NO MERE MAN YOU ATTACK--!

--'TIS THE SON OF ODIN-- THE GOD OF THUNDER--AN IMMORTAL OF ASGARD!!

BAH! EMPTY WORDS CANNOT SAP THE STRENGTH OF THE DEMON!



INDEED--EMPTY WORDS CAN ACCOMPLISH NAUGHT!

BUT, A WORLD CAN BE TORN ASUNDER BY THE HAMMER AND THE ARM OF THOR!

**KROOON!**



UNNERVED--DESPERATE--THE DEMON RESORTS TO ONE OF THE GIANT CANNONS HIS LEGIONS HAVE PLUNDERED ON THEIR MARCH TO THE SEA--!

THE GREAT SPIRIT HAS SENT HIM TO TEST OUR METTLE! WE MUST NOT FAIL NOW!

QUICK! OUR LARGEST WEAPON! DESTROY HIM WHERE HE STANDS! NOW! NOW!

THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS THAT THEY HAVE CAPTURED! THAT IS NO ORDINARY ARTILLERY PIECE! IT IS EQUIPPED WITH ROCKET SHELLS!

BUT, I SHALL FIND A WAY TO RENDER IT USELESS --SOMEHOW!



BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN--LET THERE BE AN END TO THIS MOCKERY HERE AND NOW!

SO SPEAKS THE SON OF ODIN!

BUT, EVEN AS THOR SWINGS HIS ENCHANTED MALLET, HALF-WAY 'ROUND THE WORLD, ON A GRASSY FIELD IN AMERICA, A STRANGELY-GARBED, POWERFUL FIGURE TAKES HIS EASE ON A SILENT MOUNTAIN SLOPE--UNTIL--



WHEEEEEEE  
EEEEEE

--THE RAUCOUS SOUND OF A SCREECHING TRAIN WHISTLE KNIFES THRU THE PEACEFUL COUNTRY-SIDE--!



WHO DARES DISTURB THE SLUMBER OF --HERCULES?



SO! AN IRON MECHANICAL MONSTER-- HALTED BY A FALLEN TREE!

IT'LL TAKE DAYS TO LIFT THAT FALLEN SEQUOIA FROM THE TRACKS!

THAT MEANS WE'RE STUCK HERE-- IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!

I'LL HAVE NO PEACE OR QUIET SO LONG AS THEY REMAIN! THEREFORE, IT IS UP TO HERCULES--!



STAND ASIDE, ALL! YOU SHALL SOON BE ON YOUR WAY AGAIN!

DIDJA HEAR THAT, WILLIE?

YEAH! WHY DOES EVERY NUT IN THE WORLD HAVE TO BUTT IN WHEN SOMETHING GOES WRONG?

BUT, A MINUTE LATER...



WILLIE! WILLIE! COME 'N PINCH ME! I GOTTA BE DREAMING!

IF YOU ARE, WE MUST BOTH BELONG TO THE SAME "DREAM-OF-THE-MONTH" CLUB!

ONE SIDE, MORTALS, WHILST HERCULES CLEARS THE TRACKS!

HE'S LIFTING THAT TREE AS EASY AS I LIFT MY PAYCHECK! WHA-WHAT'S HE GONNA DO?

**EFFORTLESSLY, EASILY, WITH A CASUAL NONCHALANCE THAT MUST BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED, THE MAN CALLED HERCULES LIFTS THE MONSTROUS FALLEN TREE IN HIS BARE HANDS, AND THEN, WITHOUT A MOMENT'S PAUSE, HURLS IT LIKE A SPEAR INTO THE SURROUNDING HILLS--!**

D-DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, MARVIN?



MUST I DISPOSE OF THIS METAL OBJECT ALSO IN ORDER TO REMAIN UNDISTURBED??

N-NO! FOR THE LUVVA PETE, DON'T TOSS MY ENGINE OFF THE TRACKS!

WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT NOW! WE'LL BE OUT OF YOUR WAY IN MINUTES! HONEST! WE'RE GOING! WE'RE GOING!



GOING? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

T-TO THE CITY! WE-WE'RE ALREADY BEHIND SCHEDULE!

-AHH!- THEN THERE ARE CITIES IN THIS STRANGE, MAD WORLD OF YOURS! GOOD! GOOD!

YOU SHALL TAKE ME WITH YOU!



HERCULES HAS ALWAYS LOVED CITIES! IT IS THERE WHERE THE CROWDS ARE-- WHERE REVELING AND MERRY-MAKING ARE EVER TO BE FOUND!

AND WHO CAN ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE AS MUCH AS AN OLYMPIAN GOD?!!



TAKE ME THEN TO YOUR CITY! HERCULES COMMANDS!

MEANWHILE, UNAWARE OF THE PRESENCE ON EARTH OF ANOTHER IMMORTAL, THE SOMEWHAT MORE SERIOUS-MINDED SON OF ODIN IS OCCUPIED WITH MATTERS FAR REMOVED FROM REVELS OR MERRY-MAKING--



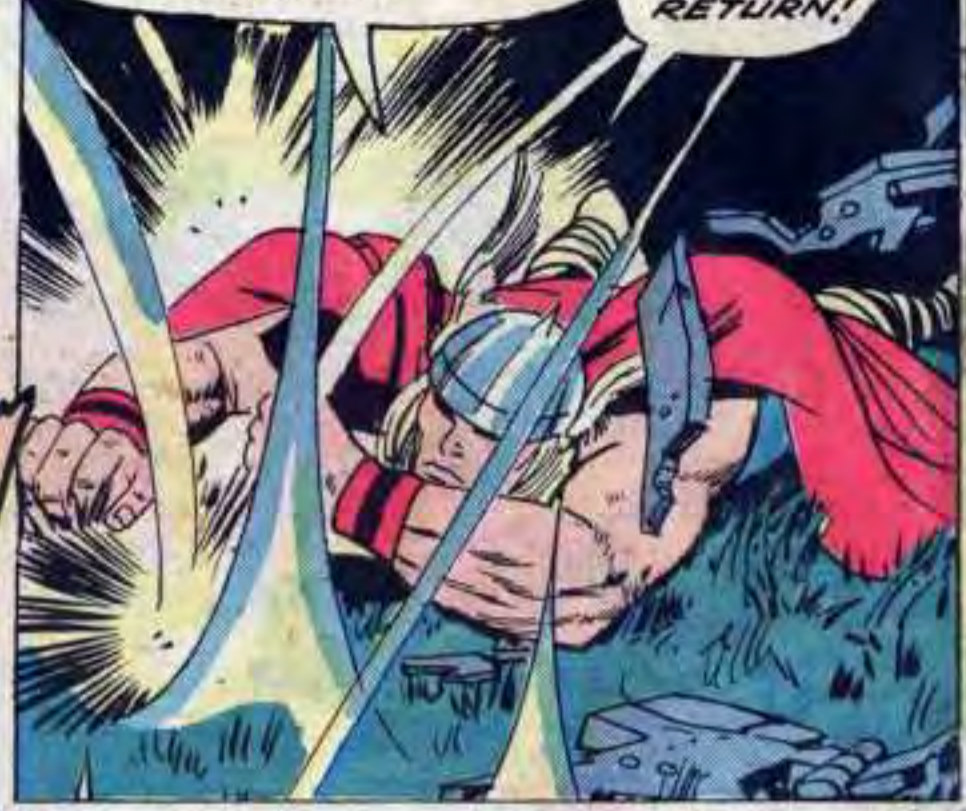
THERE! NOW LET HIS CANNON BE FIRED!!

AND, AS IF IN ANSWER TO THOR'S GRIM CHALLENGE--!



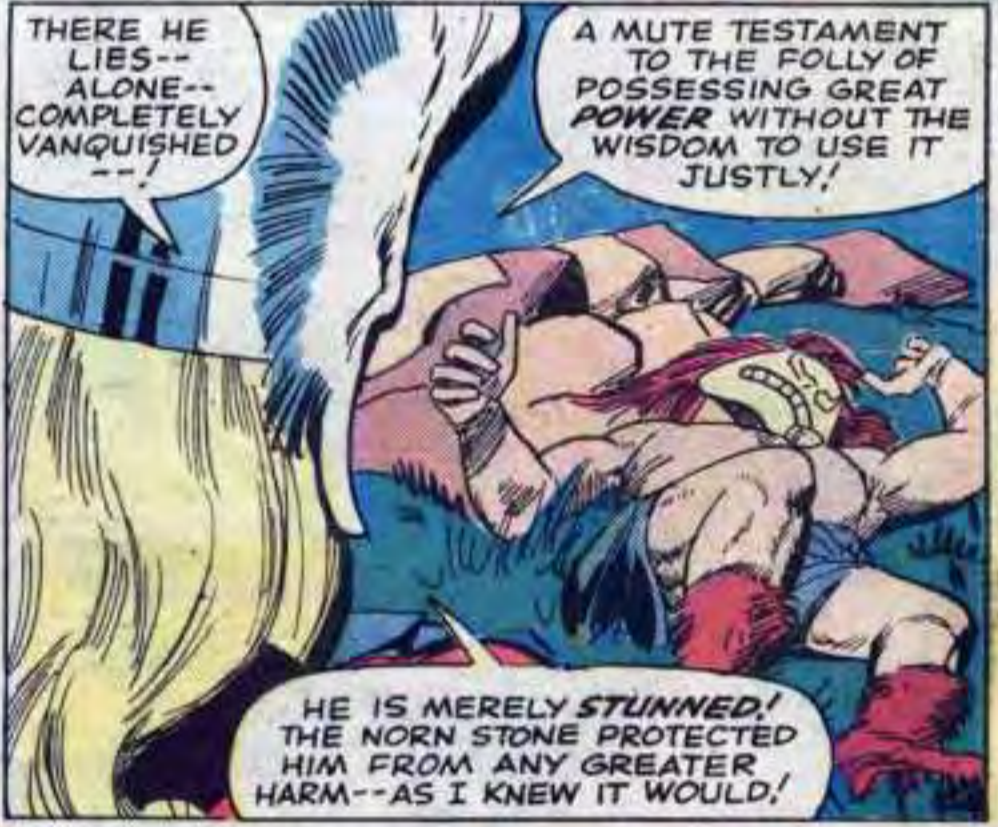
THE DEMON'S MINIONS FLEE IN PANIC! THUS, WITH ONE STROKE, I HAVE SCATTERED HIS ARMY!

AND NOW, LET MY ENCHANTED MALLET RETURN!



THWIP!

SO BE IT!



THERE HE LIES-- ALONE-- COMPLETELY VANQUISHED --!

A MUTE TESTAMENT TO THE FOLLY OF POSSESSING GREAT POWER WITHOUT THE WISDOM TO USE IT JUSTLY!

HE IS MERELY STUNNED! THE NORN STONE PROTECTED HIM FROM ANY GREATER HARM--AS I KNEW IT WOULD!



BUT IT SHALL PROTECT HIM-- IT SHALL SERVE HIM-- NO MORE!



MY MISSION HERE IS ENDED! THE DANGER IS PAST!

BUT ALAS, THOR DOES NOT SUSPECT THE FAR GREATER DANGER WHICH HE SOON MUST FACE--!

FOR, AS THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD MAJESTICALLY WATCHES THE LAST OF THE DEMON'S HORDES MELT AWAY IN THE TRACKLESS JUNGLE, HE CANNOT SUSPECT THAT HIS ORDEAL IS *NOT* YET ENDED -- *NO*, THE MOST SOUL-SEARING PART IS YET ABOUT TO *BEGIN*--!



AND NOW, BUT ONE LAST THING REMAINS TO BE DONE...

BEFORE RETURNING TO MY BELOVED JANE, I MUST BRING THE ENCHANTED STONE BACK SAFELY TO THE GOLDEN REALM...

IT SHALL BE THE WORK OF MERE *MINUTES*-- AND THEN, NOTHING SHALL PART ME FROM MY LOVED ONE AGAIN!



ON THEN-- TO BIFROST-- THE ETERNAL RAINBOW BRIDGE!!

THUS, SECONDS LATER-- AS WE MERE MORTALS MEASURE TIME--!



SINCE REVEALING MY TRUE IDENTITY TO THE GIRL OF MY HEART, IT IS AS THOUGH A HEAVY WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM MY BOSOM!

BUT, IN TRUTH, THE WRATH OF MY FATHER, NOBLE ODIN, SHALL BE BEYOND ALL MEASURE WHEN HE LEARNS WHAT I HAVE DONE!

THUS DOES THE THUNDER GOD GREET THE ALL-WISE-- UN-AWARE THAT ODIN ALREADY KNOWS OF THE SECRET HIS SON HAS REVEALED--!



HAIL, MOST NOBLE FATHER!

ENTER! STAND BEFORE THE ROYAL PRESENCE!

I HAVE BROUGHT THE *NORN* STONE BACK TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE, SIRE--!



SO BE IT!

IF MY FATHER HATH NO DESIRE TO CONVERSE, THEN BY YOUR LEAVE, I RETURN TO EARTH!

I SAY THEE--  
-NAY!



THE FURY IN YOUR EYES-- THE THUNDER IN YOUR VOICE -- FATHER-- YOU KNOW!

NOT FOR NOTHING AM I ODIN, THE ALL-WISE!! YES, BLOOD OF MY BLOOD-- I KNOW!

BALDER!! COME YOU TO MY SIDE!!



YOU CALLED, SIRE?

THOR! MY FRIEND WHO ART MORE THAN BROTHER TO ME! I EMBRACE THEE!

SILENCE, COURAGEOUS ONE! THERE IS A TASK TO BE DONE--!



MY SON HATH BETRAYED HIS TRUST! YOUR BLADE, LOYAL BALDER! SMITE HIM!!



THOR MUST ENDURE THE RITUAL OF STEEL! AND, SHOULD HE SURVIVE-- HE SHALL NEVER MORE SET FOOT UPON THE PLANET EARTH!

PUNISH ME AS YOU WILL-- BUT I CANNOT FORSAKE MY HEART!

NO, FATHER! SHE WHOM I LOVE DWELLS THERE!



THUNDER GOD, THOU HAST NO CHOICE! ODIN HATH SPOKEN!

NO! NOT ALL THE BLADES IN ASGARD-- NOT ALL THE POWER IN THE UNIVERSE-- SHALL HALT ME NOW!

MY STRENGTH-- MY LIMBS-- MY VERY LIFE ARE IN THY SERVICE, SIRE! BUT, EVEN A THUNDER GOD HAS THE RIGHT TO LOVE!



THEN, LIKE A THUNDER-CLAP, BEGINS THE RITUAL OF STEEL ---!

HAVE AT HIM, WARRIORS! BY COMMAND OF LORDLY ODIN!

BACK!! BACK, I SAY!! BACK BEFORE THE POWER OF MY MALLET-- BACK, BEFORE THE RAGE THAT DOTHS FILL MY VERY SOUL--!



BY THE GOLDEN SPIRES!! HE DOTHS BATTER US ASIDE, DESPITE OUR NUMBER!



THOUGH EVERY BLADE IN ASGARD BE RAISED AGAINST ME-- THOR FIGHTS ON! THOUGH THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES TREMBLE AND QUAKE-- THOR FIGHTS ON!!

AND, IN A DIFFERENT WORLD, AS THOR FIGHTS HIS GREATEST FIGHT, ANOTHER IMMORTAL--ONE WITH A TASTE FOR THE GOOD LIFE--FINDS THAT EARTH IS THE CLOSEST THING HE HAS EVER KNOWN TO OLYMPUS ITSELF--!

NOW, GET THIS, J.B.-- I SPOTTED JUST THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR! I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS! I SAW HIM COMING OUT OF GRAND CENTRAL STATION!

HE'S EVEN DRESSED FOR THE PART! HE'LL MAKE THE GREATEST HERCULES EVER FILMED!

DON'T WORRY! I WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT SIGNING HIM UP! YOU KNOW ME, J.B.!

WHO'S THE REFUGEE FROM MUSCLE BEACH, CHARLIE?

I DUNNO! BUT, IF YOU FIND OUT WHAT KINDA VITAMIN PILLS HE TAKES, ORDER ME A BUSHFUL!

COME ON, GIRLS! STOP BEING SELFISH! LET ME GET NEXT TO HIM FOR A MINUTE!



NO NEED TO CROWD, DAMSELS! THIS PLACE DOETH PLEASE ME! I SHALL NOT SOON DEPART!

I TELL YA HE'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! HE NOT ONLY LOOKS THE PART, HE EVEN SOUNDS LIKE HERCULES!

NO, J.B., I'M NOT PUTTIN' YA ON! HE'D MAKE KING KONG LOOK LIKE A POWDER PUFF!

THIS INSTRUMENT IS NOT UNLIKE MINE OWN LYRE! IN TRUTH, THIS IS A MOST SATISFACTORY WORLD!

I KNEW IT! HE'S A FOLK SINGER-- PLUGGING A NEW DISC!



BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, AN INTERRUPTION OCCURS FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER--

AWRIGHT, THE PARTY'S OVER! GETCHA HANDS UP-- FAST! THIS IS A STICK UP!

THAT MEANS EVERYBODY! WE DON'T WANNA GET ROUGH UNLESS WE HAVETA! REACH FOR THE CEILING!

THOUGH THE WORDS BE STRANGE, THE TONE IS UNMISTAKABLE! AND WORSE, THEY INTERRUPT MY MADRIGAL!







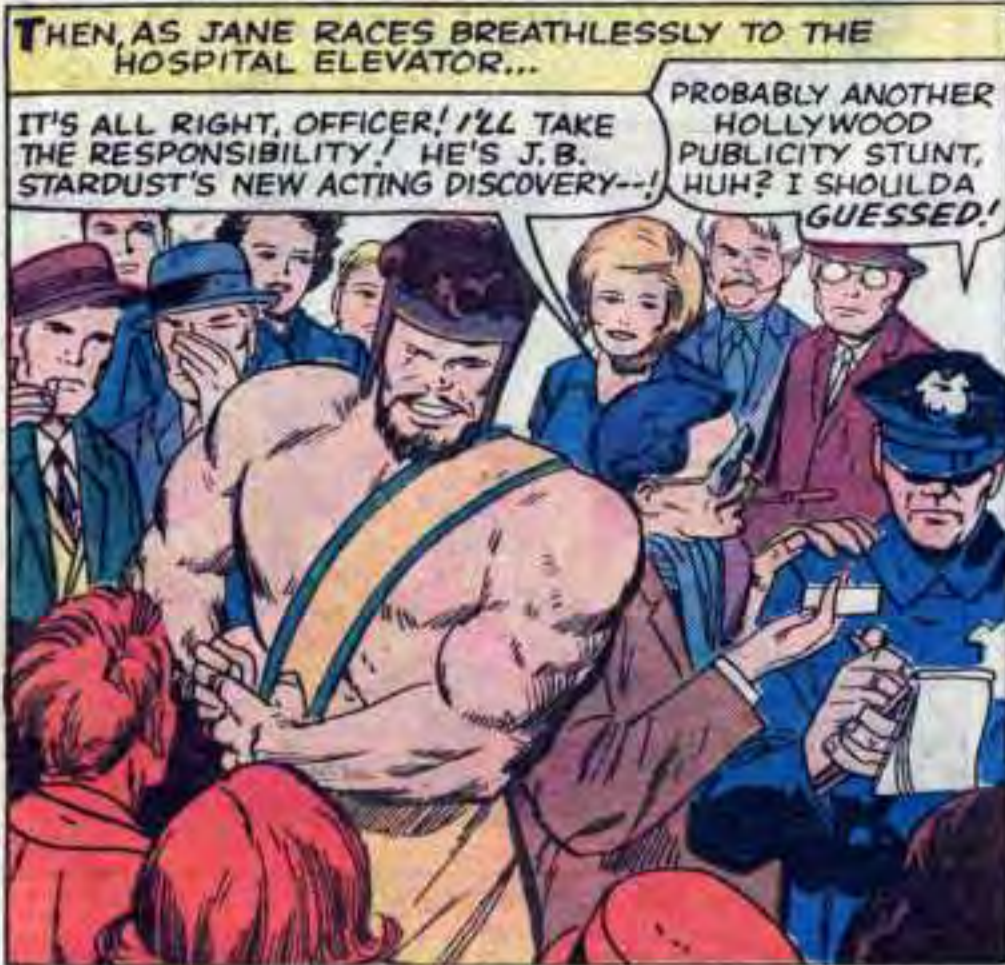
AND, HIGH ABOVE THE INCREDIBLE SCENE, JANE FOSTER, PREPARING TO CHECK OUT OF HER HOSPITAL, HEARS THE COMMOTION BELOW--



THAT LARGE, POWERFUL FIGURE IN THE CENTER OF THE CROWD! SO MUSCULAR--SO BROAD-SHOULDERED! IT CAN ONLY BE-- THOR! NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE HURLED THAT LAMPPOST!

HE'S COME BACK TO ME--AS HE VOWED HE WOULD! MY LOVE HAS RETURNED!







THEN, MOVING TOO SWIFTLY FOR THE EYE TO FOLLOW--TOO POWERFULLY FOR A MERE SWORD THRUST BY HEIMDALL TO INTERCEPT--THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD STRIKES HIS ENCHANTED MALLET WITH FORCE ENOUGH TO CAUSE A SONIC BOOM--AS THE SUDDEN, EAR-SHATTERING SOUND CAUSES HEIMDALL TO CRUMBLE IN SHOCK--!



WHILE, BACK IN THE AWESOME THRONE ROOM...



THEN, THE ALL-SEEING EYES OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN TURN ONCE AGAIN TO THE FLEEING THUNDER GOD, AS THE VENGEFUL MONARCH PONDERES THE PUNISHMENT HE SHALL INFLICT UPON HIS REBEL- LIOUS SON--!



BACK TO EARTH-- AT LAST!

MY VERY SOUL HUNGERS FOR THE SIGHT OF MY BELOVED!

A MILLING CROWD-- ACROSS THE STREET FROM HER HOSPITAL!



CAN IT BE THAT JANE FOSTER IS IN DANGER?!!

PLUMMETING TO THE GROUND LIKE A STREAK, THE IMMORTAL HEARS--



FOR THE LUVVA PETE! ANOTHER ONE! THIS TOWN'S CRAWLIN' WITH HUMAN POWER-HOUSES!

ANOTHER ONE?? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? SPEAK, MORTAL -- THOR COMMANDS!

ANSWER 'IM, CHARLIE! HE'S ONE GUY YOU DON'T WANNA KID AROUND WITH!

S-SEE FOR YOURSELF, MISTER! JUST LOOK THRU THAT SODA PARLOR WINDOW--!



DARE I BELIEVE MY EYES?!!



AHH! THIS LIQUID IS LIKE NECTAR OF THE GODS!

JANE! I HAVE RETURNED!

REALLY? I FORGOT YOU HAD BEEN AWAY!

UHP! IT-IT'S THOR!

I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME-- BUT AGAIN YOU LEFT, WITHOUT A WORD OF EXPLANATION! WELL, I'M THRU BEING LEFT BEHIND-- WONDERING-- NEVER KNOWING WHEN OR IF YOU'LL RETURN!

STOP! YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU SAY!

YOU MUST ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN--!







# THE MIGHTY THOR!

# "WHOM THE GODS WOULD DESTROY!"

NOT EVEN HERCULES, SON OF ZEUS, MAY STRIKE THOR WITH IMPUNITY!

ANOTHER MIGHTY MARVEL INSTANT RESUMÉ:

HERCULES HAS COME TO EARTH! HE'S GOT THE BIG EYE FOR THOR'S CHICK!

GOLDILOCKS IS BUGGED, BUT GOOD!

SO, THEY'RE FIGHTING IT OUT!

THERE! THAT'S AS PAINLESS AS WE CAN MAKE IT!

CHAPTER II

FEATURING: THE LONG-AWAITED CLASH OF TITANS BETWEEN MIGHTY THOR and HERCULES!

YOUR OVERBEARING CONCEIT IS A STANDING JOKE IN OLYMPUS, THUNDER GOD! BUT NOW I'LL RID YOU OF IT-- FOREVER!

THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE! AND HERE ARE THE GUYS WHO ALMOST COULDN'T DO IT--

STAN LEE  
THE LITERARY LION!

JACK KIRBY  
THE PENCILLING PUSSYCAT!

V. COLLETTA  
THE DELINEATING DRAGON!

ARTIE SIMEK  
THE LETTERING LOOKS IT!



MY HAMMER AGAINST YOUR MACE!  
WE SHALL SEE WHICH IS THE STRONGER!

I'VE NEVER YET  
TASTED DEFEAT--  
NOR SHALL I  
NOW!

NO! THEY MUSTN'T FIGHT OVER ME!  
IF--IF ONE OF THEM SHOULD BE  
HURT--OR WORSE--!

NEVER MIND THAT!  
DOES MY STORE  
INSURANCE COVER  
DAMAGE BY  
IMMORTALS?



I DO NOT SEEK TO  
HARM YOU! MERELY TO  
SHOW THAT POWER  
MISUSED IS POWER  
ABUSED!

WHAT  
MANNER OF  
WARRIOR  
ARE YOU?  
YOUR LIPS  
SPOUT  
FABLES,  
WHILST  
YOUR  
SINEWS ARE  
THE EQUAL  
OF  
HERCULES!



NAY, RASH ONE! THE  
POWER OF THOR IS  
EQUAL TO NONE! MY  
STRENGTH IS SUPREME!

AGAIN YOUR COLOSSAL  
EGOTISM FILLS MY  
SOUL WITH RAGE!



THE MORTAL  
FEMALE FOR  
WHOSE FAVOR  
WE BATTLE  
DESERVES BETTER  
THAN SUCH A VAIN,  
HUMORLESS  
DULLARD AS THEE!

DIM-WITTED CLOD!  
IF I BE HUMORLESS,  
IT IS NOT WITHOUT  
GOOD REASON!



FOR MONTHS, THE POWERS OF ASGARD AND EARTH  
HAVE CONSPIRED TO KEEP ME FROM MY BELOVED!

BUT, NO LONGER  
DO I ENDURE MY  
FATE IN STONY  
SILENCE! NOW, THE  
SON OF ODIN  
STRIKES BACK!

I HAVE MISJUDGED  
HIM! NO DULLARD  
IS HE! INSTEAD,  
HE IS TRULY  
TORTURED BY A SOUL  
IN TORTURE!

MEANWHILE, ON THE FABLED RAINBOW BRIDGE WHICH SPANS THE INFINITE VOID BETWEEN EARTH AND ASGARD, A SOLITARY FIGURE SLOWLY RISES...



TRULY MUST THE MADNESS BE UPON THE GOD OF THUNDER!

HE HATH USED HIS AWESOME POWER TO OVERCOME HEIMDALL, GUARDIAN OF THE BRIDGE! SURELY, HE MUST KNOW THE DREAD PRICE WHICH A VENGEFUL ODIN WILL FORCE HIM TO PAY!

AND, THRUOUT THE GOLDEN REALM, AS THE WARRIORS OF ASGARD RECOVER FROM THE INDESCRIBABLE ONSLAUGHT OF MIGHTY THOR, ALL SEEM TO SHARE THE SAME SOLEMN THOUGHT...



WHAT PUNISHMENT WILL THOR RECEIVE AT THE HANDS OF REGAL ODIN?

IT CHILLS ME TO THE MARROW WHEN I THINK UPON IT!

IT CHILLS THE HEART OF THE THUNDER GOD'S CLOSEST FRIEND, AS WELL--AS BALDER THE BRAVE ATTEMPTS TO SOFTEN THE CATAclysmic WRATH OF HIS LIEGE...



HARK YOU, SIRE! THY SON WAS MOTIVATED BY LOVE OF A FEMALE -- IS HE NOT MORE DESERVING OF PITY THAN RETRIBUTION?

LET THY VOICE BE STILL, LOYAL BALDER! I BE NOT MOVED!

I RESPECT THY DEVOTION-- BUT MY LAW IS THE LAW SUPREME-- AND NONE MAY BREAK IT!

MINE EARS SHALL HEAR NO MORE ENTREATIES! NOR SHALL THE VOICE OF ODIN MOUTH WORDS OF FORGIVENESS!



THOR HAS DARED TO PIT HIS WILL AGAINST MINE! FOR THAT, HE MUST PAY!

AND, BY THE TOWERING SPIRES OF ASGARD, HOW HE SHALL PAY!

THEN, TURNING DARKLY TO THE COSMIC CRYSTAL FROM WHICH NOTHING ON EARTH CAN BE HIDDEN, THE LORD OF ASGARD MUTTERS SOFTLY...



ALL THAT NOW REMAINS IS THE CHOICE OF PUNISHMENT! A CHOICE I SHALL NOT LONG DELAY!

**BUT, IN THE MORTAL WORLD BELOW, THOR CONTINUES HIS THUNDEROUS ONSLAUGHT--UNAWARE OF THE DIRE FATE WHICH AWAITS HIM--!**

HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER MAKES A LIVING MOCKERY OF MINE OWN MACE--EVEN AS THE POWER OF HIS LIMBS IS EASILY THE EQUAL OF MINE OWN!

BACK, THOU BLUSTERING BRAGGART! WELL MAY THOU THANK WHATEVER GODS THOU PRAYEST TO THAT I HURL MY HAMMER NOT TO DESTROY, BUT TO HUMBLE THEE!

LET NO MORTAL FEEL THE PANGS OF FEAR! ONLY HERCULES IS TARGET FOR MY URU MALLET! ALL OTHERS SHALL BE UNSCATHED!

HIS HAMMER RETURNED TO HIM--PASSING OVER THE HEADS OF THE MORTAL ASSEMBLAGE!

BE THOU WARNED, SCION OF ASGARD! NOW THAT THE FULL MEASURE OF THY STRENGTH IS REVEALED, I HUNGER FOR MORE BATTLE!

FOR NOTHING PLEASES THE HEART OF HERCULES SO MUCH AS A FOE WHO CAN OFFER A CHALLENGE TO MY MATCHLESS POWER!

HE IS AS THOR HAD BEEN, IN THE HALCYON DAYS OF YORE! HE THRIVES ON COMBAT AS THE BLOSSOMS THRIVE ON RAIN!

BUT I AM TOO HEAVILY-LADEN WITH CARE TO TREAT THIS ENCOUNTER AS A LARK! IT MUST BE ENDED--AND SOON!

**SSKKKRUNCH!**

HAH! HOW PUNY ARE THE PRODUCTS OF MERE MORTALS!! HOW THEY SHATTER AND CRUMBLE BEFORE THE MIGHT OF HERCULES!

STRENGTH ALONE IS A HOLLOW VIRTUE, SON OF ZEUS!

WITHOUT CONSCIENCE, WITHOUT RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE WEAKER THAN THEE--THY POWER RESTS ONLY ON PILLARS OF SAND!

SUDDENLY, THE UNPREDICTABLE GREEK IMMORTAL HURLS HIMSELF FROM THE WRECKED VEHICLES, LEAPING AT HIS CAPED FOE WITH THE FORCE OF A JUGGERNAUT--!



FIE UPON CONSCIENCE!! I LEAVE OTHERS TO DWELL UPON THE RIGHT AND WRONG OF MATTERS!

AS FOR ME, THE ECSTASY OF BATTLE IS REWARD ENOW!

I HAVE WARNED THEE FOR THE FINAL TIME! TILL NOW, I HAVE STAYED MINE ARM FROM UNLEASHING A FATAL BLOW -- BUT YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE--!

DO THEN THY WORST, THUNDER GOD! NO GROUNDLESS THREAT SHALL PUT HERCULES TO ROUTE!



BY THE MAJESTY OF MIGHTY OLYMPUS!! NEVER BEFORE HAS ANY BEING BROKEN THE GRIP OF HERCULES TO ESCAPE MY MOST POTENT BLOW!



EVEN ON THY BACK, THOU ART A FOE TO BE FEARED! BUT, MY MACE SHALL GIVE THEE PAUSE!

THOR IS NOT IMPRESSED! THY WORDS DO LITTLE MORE THAN BOLSTER THINE OWN FALTERING CONFIDENCE!

ONCE MORE, THE MATCHLESS POWER OF THE THUNDER GOD ENABLES HIM TO ROLL CLEAR OF HERCULES' CYCLONIC BLOW, AS THE IMMORTAL'S MACE SHATTERS THE VERY GROUND BENEATH THEM, CAUSING THE TWO TITANIC COMBATANTS TO PLUNGE ATOP A SPEEDING TRAIN IN THE SUBWAY TUNNEL BELOW...!



OBVIOUS TO ALL AROUND THEM, THE TWO RAMPAGING GOLIATHS FIGHT ON, AS THE SPEEDING STEEL CAR BENEATH THEIR FEET ROARS TOWARDS ITS NEXT STOP--AN ELEVATED OPEN-AIR STATION--!

ONCE AGAIN I BESEECH THEE, HERCULES--HEED MY WORDS! LET THIS SENSELESS BATTLE CEASE!

THY PLEA--COMING FROM ANY OTHER LIPS--WOULD BESPEAK RANK COWARDICE!

YET, I KNOW 'TIS NOT FEAR--BUT CONCERN THAT CAUSED THY UTTERANCE!



BUT THE VERY PRIDE OF HERCULES IS AT STAKE! THE VICTORY MUST BE MINE ERE MY ARM WILL BE STILLED!

SO BE IT! UPON THINE OWN HEAD THEN SHALL BE THAT WHICH BEFALLS!

THAT NOISE! THAT POUNDING! WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE!

WE'VE REACHED THE STATION! EVERYONE OUT--QUICKLY!



WE CAN END THIS AT ONCE, GOD OF THUNDER! MERELY MOUTH THE WORDS--I YIELD TO THEE!

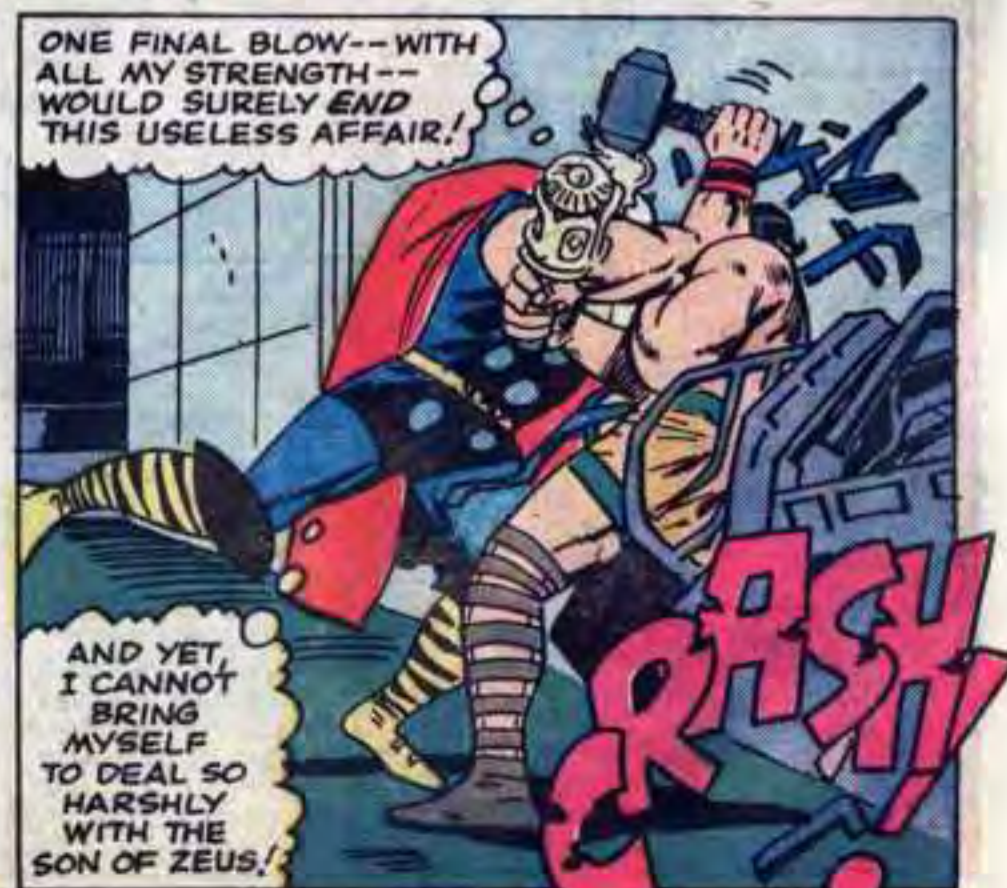
MAY I NE'ER GAZE UPON VALHALLA ERE SUCH WORDS ESCAPE THE LIPS OF THOR!

THE SUBWAYS WERE BAD ENOUGH TILL NOW--BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!



ONE FINAL BLOW--WITH ALL MY STRENGTH--WOULD SURELY END THIS USELESS AFFAIR!

AND YET, I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO DEAL SO HARSHLY WITH THE SON OF ZEUS!





I AM TRULY CERTAIN THAT HERCULES IS *HEADSTRONG* RATHER THAN EVIL-- LIKE A SMALL CHILD WHO HAS BEEN *UNDISCIPLINED* SINCE BIRTH!

SURELY THE LUST FOR BATTLE HAS FADED FROM THEE BY *NOW*, OLYMPIAN!

*NAY*, THUNDER GOD! MORE THAN EVER DO I LONG TO RAISE MY MACE IN *TRIUMPH*!



NOW, *HERE*-- ON THIS SITE WHERE AGED BUILDINGS ARE BEING DEMOLISHED, WE CAN REACH OUR ULTIMATE MOMENT OF *TRUTH*-- WITH NONE TO INTERFERE!

CAUTION

YOUR HUNGER FOR BATTLE IS A *DISEASE*-- AND THE HAMMER OF THOR SHALL SUPPLY THY *CURE*!



NOT WHILST HERCULES CAN HURL THE FIRST BLOW! LET *THIS* TEACH THEE CAUTION, ASGARDIAN!

**KHOKE!**

VERILY, THOU ART BEYOND ALL REASON! THUS, IF ONLY *FORCE* SHALL PREVAIL--!

*FORCE* THEN SHALL IT BE THAT BRINGS THEE TO THY KNEES!



NEVER BEFORE HAVE ANY FAILED TO FALL PROSTRATE WHEN STRUCK BY *HERCULES*!!

BUT, THY *STRENGTH* MERELY WHETS MY APPETITE FOR *FURTHER* SPORT!

THOU SHALT NO LONGER CALL IT *SPORT* AFTER THOR HATH DONE WITH THEE!

**RAKKA**



**THWPPP!**

*HAN!* USING THE STEEL TREAD OF A VEHICLE AS A *WHIP* AGAINST HERCULES!! A BRILLIANT STRATAGEM, THUNDER GOD--!

A PITY IT IS DOOMED TO FAILURE!

AHH, THE REJOICING-- THE BACCHANALIAN REVELING-- WHICH SHALL FILL ALL OF OLYMPUS-- WHEN IT IS LEARNED THAT HERCULES HATH FELLED THE MIGHTY THOR!

AND, HOW FITTING IT SHALL BE TO ACHIEVE MY GREATEST VICTORY BY MEANS OF AN ANCIENT OLYMPIAN SPORT--



MAYHAP EVEN THOU HAST HEARD OF THE GRECIAN PROWESS AT THROWING THE DISCUS!!



SO FAST DO THE HEAVY FLYING OBJECTS ZOOM THRU THE AIR, THAT EVEN THE SPEED OF THOR IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO SAVE HIM FROM THE BATTERING IMPACT...!



AND NOW, WHILST THOU ART STILL IN STATE OF SHOCK--

THE FINAL BLOW SHALL BE STRUCK-- AS ONLY THE FABLED FIST OF HERCULES CAN STRIKE IT!



BUT, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER--

A STRONGER ARM! A STOUTER HEART! A NOBLER SOUL! AND NONE DOTH HERCULES POSSESS, THOU BLABBERING, BLUSTERING, BOASTFUL BUFFOON!

BY THE CLOVEN HOOVES OF PAN!! WHAT DOTH IT TAKE TO DEFEAT THE SON OF ODIN??!







WONDER BEYOND  
WONDERS!! THOU  
DOST HAVE FIRE  
IN THY VEINS--AS  
WELL AS THUNDER  
IN THY FISTS! YEA,  
'TIS NOT SOME MEALY-  
MOUTHED CABBAGE  
I DO BATTLE WITH!  
THOU ART AS  
CAPABLE OF ANGER  
AS HERCULES  
HIMSELF!

ANGER??! BY THE  
BRISTLING BEARD OF  
ODIN, THOU KNOWEST NOT  
THE MEANING OF THE  
WORD! NOT ALL THE FURY  
IN THE HEAVENS--NOT  
ALL THE SAVAGERY ON  
EARTH--CAN EQUAL THE  
SENSES--SHATTERING  
CYCLONE OF RAGE WHICH  
IS THOR, WHEN SEIZED  
BY A POUNDING PAROXYSM  
OF WRATH!

**BUT, EVEN AS THE BATTLE RAGES, WE MUST ONCE AGAIN TURN TO HALLOWED ASGARD. FOR IT IS HERE THAT EVENTS ARE BEING SHAPED WHICH WILL HAVE THE MOST PROFOUND EFFECT UPON THE THUNDER GOD BELOW---**

**BEHOLD, SEIDRING! MY SON DOETH BATTLE LIKE A WARRIOR BORN!**

**THE PROWESS OF THOR HAS LONG BEEN COMMON KNOWLEDGE, SIRE!**

**BUT, THOUGH HE BE THE BRAVEST OF ALL WHO LIVE--THOUGH HE BE FLESH OF THY FLESH--HE HATH BROKEN THY LAW--AND MUST BE BROUGHT TO TASK!**



**WHENE'ER WE SPEAK, I FIND NEW JUSTIFICATION FOR THOSE WHO CALL THEE SEIDRING, THE MERCILESS!**

**YET, THOU RANKEST THE HIGHEST OF ALL MY COUNCIL --AND THY WORDS, THOUGH PAINFUL TO MINE HEART, HAVE THE RING OF TRUTH TO THEM!**

**THY SORROW IS SEIDRING'S SORROW, SIRE! BUT, JUSTICE IS JUSTICE!**



**FINALLY, AFTER LONG MOMENTS OF PAINFUL CONTEMPLATION, THE DEEP VOICE OF ODIN SLOWLY FILLS THE CHAMBER...**

**GIVE EAR TO THE JUDGMENT OF THY LIEGE! I SHALL CAUSE THE POWER OF THOR TO EBB FROM HIS LIMBS--UNTIL IT BE BUT HALF THAT WHICH HE RIGHTFULLY POSSESSES!**

**BUT, MOST ALL-WISE-- IF THOU CAUSE HIM TO LOSE HALF HIS POWER NOW--WHILST HE NEEDS IT MOST, IN BATTLE WITH HERCULES --IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DEATH ITSELF MAY BE HIS FATE!**

**SILENCE! MY SON IS A GOD! NO LESSER PUNISHMENT WOULD BE SEEMLY! I HAVE SPOKEN!**



**BUT, STILL AM I HIS FATHER! I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO PLACE BLOOD OF MY BLOOD IN THE PATH OF DOOM! I GIVE THE ODIN-POWER TO THEE, SEIDRING--**

**--POINT THY HAND TOWARD MIDGARD\*--AND NOW--RELEASE THY POWER--SO BE IT!**



**\*MIDGARD: THE ASGARDIAN NAME FOR EARTH! --LEGENDARY STAN!**

AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, AN UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCE AWAY--!

WHAT IS THIS?

THOU, WHO HAST ENDURED MY MIGHTIEST BLOWS-- INJURED BY A MERE BOLT OF LIGHT??!

UHHHHH--!



OR, CAN IT BE THAT MY ATTACK HATH FINALLY WEAKENED THEE-- AS IT WAS INTENDED TO DO?!!

**BOW!**

WHAT HAS BEFALLEN ME? FOR THE FIRST TIME, I AM TRULY STAGGERED BY A SINGLE BLOW!



HAA! THOUGH THE THUNDER GOD'S STRENGTH IS WANING AT LAST, THE POWER OF HERCULES IS AS TITANIC AS BEFORE! THEREFORE, I SHALL NOW PROVE 'TIS HERCULES WHO IS MIGHTIEST OF ALL-- IN A MANNER THAT BEFITS SO MONUMENTAL AN OCCASION--!

SO LONG AS THE MEMORY OF MANKIND ENDURES, THIS SHALL BE ACCLAIMED AS THE GREATEST SINGLE FEAT IN RECORDED HISTORY!



THERE CAN BE NO DENYING!! THIS MOMENT SUPREME BELONGS TO HERCULES-- NOW-- AND FOREVER!

WHAT BALLADS SHALL BE SUNG! WHAT LEGENDS SHALL BE TOLD! WHAT MEMORIES SHALL THIS GLORIOUS MOMENT EVOKE!!



THEN, WITH THE EASE OF A MAN CASUALLY FLIPPING A CHEWING-GUM WRAPPER AWAY, THE TITAN FROM OLYMPUS HURLS THE GUTTED BRICK HOUSEFRONT AT THE NOW-WEAKENED THUNDER GOD--!



MY STRENGTH HAS FINALLY FAILED ME! BUT--MY ENCHANTED HAMMER SHALL SERVE TO KEEP THE WALL FROM ENGULFING ME!!

ONCE BEFORE THE WRATH OF ODIN CAUSED HALF MY POWER TO BE SHORN FROM MY LIMBS! AM I NOW BEING PUNISHED SO AGAIN??

\*AS SEEN, LO, THESE MANY MONTHS AGO-- BUT ONLY ODIN REMEMBERS WHEN!-- EMBARRASSED STAN.



EVEN WITH THE AID OF MY URU MALLET, I CAN NO LONGER BEAR THE INDESCRIBABLE PRESSURE--!

I MUST RELEASE IT SUDDENLY-- AND PRAY I CAN ROLL ASIDE IN TIME!



BY THE GOLDEN GIRDLING OF VOLSTAGG-- I AM SAVED!



SAVED? NOT SO, DEFEATED ONE! NOT WHILST THY LIMBS HAVE TURNED TO JELLY--NOT WHILST I STILL AWAIT THY WORDS OF ABJECT SURRENDER!

I AM HELPLESS BEFORE HIM--AND HE KNOWS THIS FULL WELL! BUT I SHALL NEVER YIELD!

MAYHAP WHEN STRENGTH HAS DEPARTED, NATURAL CUNNING YET MAY SERVE!



SINCE THY STRENGTH HATH DESERTED THEE, HERCULES' ZEST FOR BATTLE IS GONE! THEREFORE, LET US PUT AN END TO THIS FARCE! PREPARE FOR THINE UNDOING, PITIFUL ONE!

**BUT, ALTHOUGH KNOWING HE IS NO LONGER A MATCH FOR MERCULES, THE IMMORTAL AVENGER IS STILL GOD OF THUNDER-- STILL A FIGHTER-- TO THE END--!**

**THOR IS NOT DEFEATED YET!**



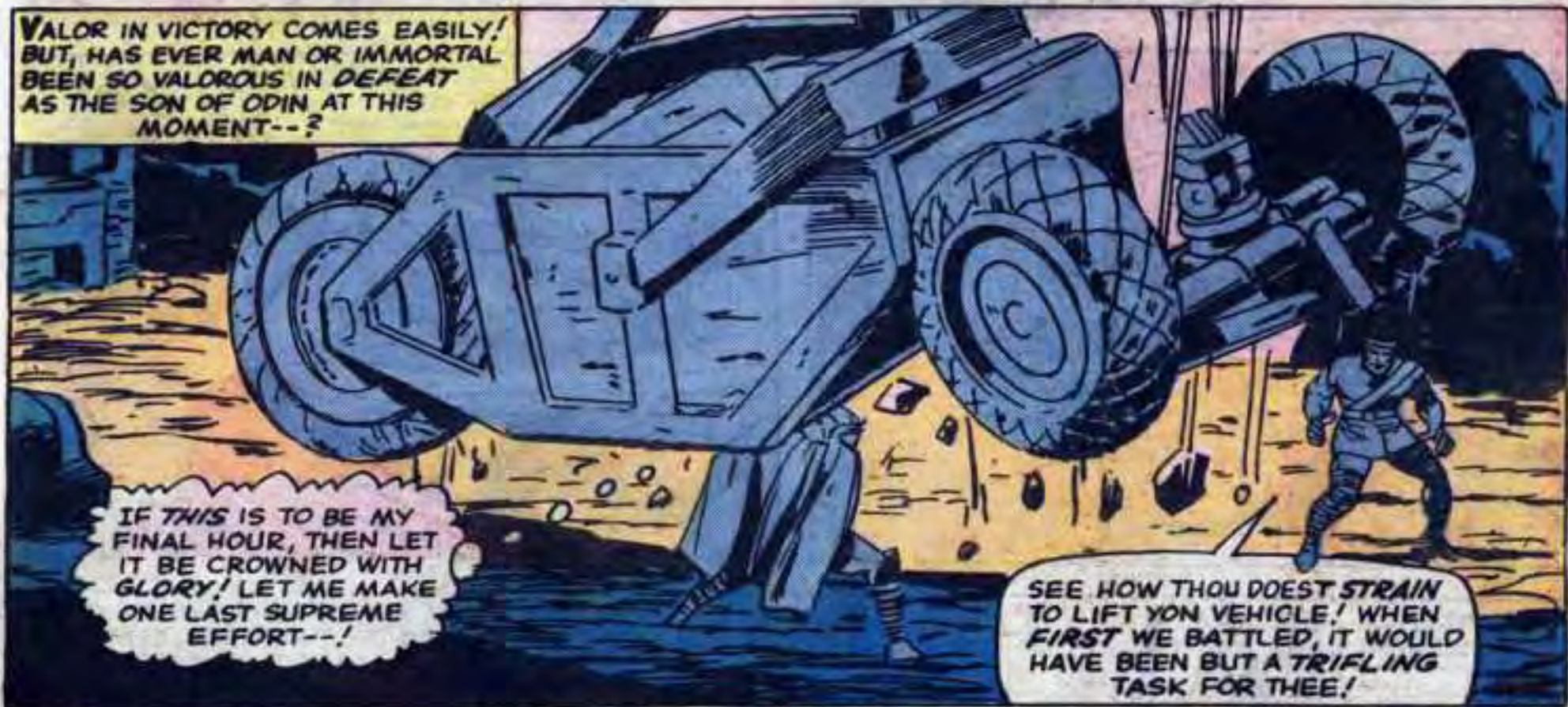
**IT IS AS I FEARED! HE SEEMED NOT TO FEEL THE BLOW!**

**IF THAT IS ALL THE FORCE THOU CANST MUSTER-- THE END SHALL BE SOONER THAN I THOUGHT!**

**UNHHHH--!**



**VALOR IN VICTORY COMES EASILY! BUT, HAS EVER MAN OR IMMORTAL BEEN SO VALEROUS IN DEFEAT AS THE SON OF ODIN AT THIS MOMENT--?**



**IF THIS IS TO BE MY FINAL HOUR, THEN LET IT BE CROWNED WITH GLORY! LET ME MAKE ONE LAST SUPREME EFFORT--!**

**SEE HOW THOU DOEST STRAIN TO LIFT YON VEHICLE! WHEN FIRST WE BATTLED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BUT A TRIFLING TASK FOR THEE!**

**NOW TO HURL IT AT-- UNHHHHH-- TOO HEAVY--!**



**NO! NO I MUST NOT BEND BENEATH THE WEIGHT-- NOT NOW--!**

**BUT, TRY AS HE MAY, THE GALLANT THUNDER GOD CANNOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE TONS OF STEEL WHICH HE HAD VAINLY TRIED TO HURL AT HIS SNEERING FOE--!**

**PERHAPS-- 'TIS BEST TO END THIS WAY! WITHOUT MY POWER-- I AM USELESS!**

**NOW THAT MY LIMBS HAVE FAILED ME-- NOTHING REMAINS-- SAVE DEATH!**





HOLD, GOD OF THUNDER! THOU SHALT NOT SO EASILY DEPRIVE ME OF MY VICTORY!



ON THY FEET, ASGARDIAN! MOUTH THE WORDS I AM WAITING TO HEAR! TELL HERCULES THAT THOR ABJECTLY SURRENDERS! SPEAK, VANQUISHED ONE!

NEVER! NOT WHILE BREATH REMAINS WITHIN ME! NOT WHILE LIFE ENDURES!



STILL THOU FIGHTEST ON?! STILL THOU STRIKETH AT THY MASTER?! THOU ART TRULY MAD!



AND THIS THEN SHALL BE THY PAEAN OF DEFEAT!



HE WON! HERCULES BEAT THOR!

WHAT A FIGHT!

SO! THE WORLD HAD BEEN WATCHING! 'T WAS TO HAVE BEEN EXPECTED! AND NOW, THE JACKALS GATHER 'ROUND THE LION!

WOTTA STORY! WHAT PICTURES! IT'LL BE THE GREATEST SENSATION SINCE D-DAY!

FROM NOW ON, THOR'LL BE A HAS-BEEN! THE CHAMP IS DEAD--LONG LIVE THE CHAMP!

**OBLIVIOUS TO THE FALLEN THUNDER GOD, THE EXUBERANT CROWD MILLS AROUND THE SMILING HERCULES--CHEERING THE VICTOR, AS CROWDS HAVE DONE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL--!**



HERCULES-- YOU'RE THE GREATEST!

I GOTTA SHAKE HIS HAND--I JUST GOTTA!

YAY FOR HERCULES!

**BUT THEN, ONE BREATHLESS FIGURE SHOULDERERS HIS WAY THRU THE JOSTLING THROG--**

**HERCULES-- REMEMBER ME? I'M THE ONE WHO OFFERED YOU A MOVIE CONTRACT BEFORE! THE OFFER STILL GOES, HANDSOME! WE'LL MAKE YOU FAMOUS!**



YOU WILL MAKE HERCULES FAMOUS??!

THINK OF IT, BIG FELLA! YOUR OWN SWIMMING POOL! BEAUTIFUL STARLETS! FAN CLUBS! TV RESIDUALS!

I ACCEPT! THE WORLD MUST NOT BE DEPRIVED OF MY GREAT TALENT!



MAN! THAT CAT'S THE LIVIN' END! HE COMES ON LIKE GANGBUSTERS!

HE'S NO HANDSOMER THAN THOR-- BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM-- HE'S SO DEVIL-MAY-CARE!



HERCULES-- GONE! THE CROWD-- DRIFTING AWAY... THEN IT'S TRUE-- IT REALLY HAPPENED--!

I HAVE BEEN DEFEATED-- AT LONG LAST!



AND NONE THERE ARE-- WHO STAY BEHIND-- WITH A LOSER--!

HEY, GANG-- LOOK! THE THUNDER GOD'S BACK WITH US AGAIN! HOW ABOUT THAT?

HUH! IF YA ASK ME, HE SHOULDA STAYED IN BED!

FROM WHERE I SIT, HIS THUNDER SOUNDS MORE LIKE A SHAKY SQUEAK!







# THE MIGHTY THOR!

## "THE HAMMER AND THE HOLOCAUST!"

THOR... WAIT! EVEN THOUGH HERCULES HAS DEFEATED YOU IN BATTLE... NOTHING HAS CHANGED BETWEEN US!

I... I LOVE YOU AS MUCH AS EVER, MY DARLING....!

BEGONE, JANE FOSTER....!

YOU NO LONGER SPEAK TO MIGHTY THOR! INSTEAD, YOU SEE BEFORE YOU A HOLLOW MOCKERY OF HIM WHO HAD BEEN GOD OF THUNDER!

AS PUNISHMENT FOR MY RASH DEFIANCE OF HIS WILL, MY FATHER HATH STRIPPED ME OF HALF MY POWER! I KNOW NOT WHAT FURTHER INDIGNITY MAY AWAIT ME!

BUT, THE GUILT WAS MINE ALONE! SO MUST THE PENANCE BE MINE! NONE SHALL SHARE IT WITH ME!

POSSIBLY THE MOST MAGNIFICENT CHRONICLE OF THOR EVER PRESENTED,

BY...

STAN LEE, WRITER  
VINCE COLLETTA, DELINEATOR

JACK KIRBY, ARTIST  
SAM ROSEN, LETTERER

CHAPTER  
III



NO! YOU CANNOT EXPECT ME TO FORSAKE YOU NOW... NOT WHEN YOU NEED ME THE MOST!

WHEN I SAW YOU DEFEATED BY HERCULES, I REALIZED HOW MUCH I TRULY LOVED YOU...!



SAY NO MORE! THOUGH THY WORDS ARE THE WORDS OF LOVE... THEY DO CARRY THE SEEDS OF PITY... PITY FOR THE FALLEN THOR!

HAVE I NOT BEEN HUMBLD ENOUGH? MUST THOR BECOME AN OBJECT OF SYMPATHY, AS WELL?



NO! BY THE POWER WHICH STILL IS MINE, I SHALL FLEE FROM THE SIGHT OF MORTAL EYES! I SHALL ENDURE WHATEVER FATE AWAITS ME... ALONE!

EVEN IN DEFEAT, THERE MUST BE A FINAL DIGNITY!



BUT, WHAT OF ME?? WHAT IF YOU SHOULD NEVER RETURN? HOW COULD I BEAR TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITHOUT YOU?

'TIS BETTER THUS! REMEMBER ME AS I WAS, MY BELOVED... REMEMBER THE BRIEF HAPPINESS WE HAVE KNOWN...



THOR! MY DARLING... COME BACK...!

FOR ONE BRIEF, FLEETING INSTANT OF ETERNITY, A GOD HATH DARED TO LOVE A MORTAL! TILL THE UNIVERSE CRUMBLES, MY HEART IS EVER THINE!

LET THAT BE OUR EPITAPH... AND OUR GLORY!

NO! I WON'T LET HIM LEAVE ME! I'LL FOLLOW HIM TO THE ENDS OF THE ... OHH!

AN ACCIDENT! THAT MAN ... HE... HE DARTED INTO TRAFFIC! THE CAR COULDN'T STOP IN TIME!

SCREEECH



THUS DOES FATE CONSPIRE TO SEPARATE THE STAR-CROSSED LOVERS! FOR JANE FOSTER CANNOT SHIRK HER DUTY... TO A PATIENT!

HE'S HURT! HE NEEDS A DOCTOR!

SOMEBODY GO FOR AN AMBULANCE!

LET ME THROUGH.. I'M A NURSE!



MEANWHILE, AS THE VICTORIOUS HERCULES IS EN ROUTE TO HOLLYWOOD TO STAR IN AN UPCOMING MOTION PICTURE SERIES BASED UPON HIS EXPLOITS, WE TURN TO STARDUST STUDIOS, WHERE FEVERISH PREPARATIONS ARE NOW IN PROGRESS...

BOY, THIS TAKES THE CAKE! THEY'RE REDESIGNING THE WHOLE BLAMED STUDIO JUST ON ACCOUNTA THE NEW HERCULES MOVIE!

IMAGINE THE NEW PRODUCER DESIGNING HIMSELF AN OFFICE LIKE THIS! HE MUST THINK HE'S SOME KINDA TIN GOD OR SOMETHIN'!

YEAH! THEY EVEN HIRED A SPECIAL PRODUCER FOR THE PICTURE...SOME NUT NAMED PLUTO!





DIDJA GET A LOOK AT 'IM YET? FIRST TIME I SAW HIM, I THOUGHT HE WAS WEARIN' A FRIGHT MASK!

SPEAKIN' OF FRIGHT MASKS...THAT CRAZY GIZMO YOU'RE JOCKEYIN' INTO HIS OFFICE MUSTA BEEN LEFT OVER FROM LAST YEAR'S HALLOWEEN PARTY!

I WONDER WHERE THEY DUG PLUTO UP FROM? I NEVER HEARD OF 'IM WORKIN' AROUND THE STUDIOS BEFORE!

THE WAY I HEARD IT, HE CONVINCED MR. STARDUST THAT HE WAS AN EXPERT ON THE LEGENDS OF HERCULES! HE MUST'VE GIVEN 'IM A REAL SNOW JOB!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!



SILENCE! YOU HAVE BEEN ENGAGED TO WORK...NOT TO SPEAK DISPARAGINGLY OF YOUR BETTERS! HOW COULD YOU EVEN HOPE TO FATHOM THE TRUTH ABOUT ONE SUCH AS I??

S-SORRY, MR. PLUTO! NO OFFENSE MEANT! WE'LL GET RIGHT TO WORK!

NO WONDER STARDUST HIRED 'IM! WHO'D HAVE THE NERVE TO SAY "NO" TO A CREEP LIKE THAT?



EXACTLY SIXTY MINUTES LATER, PLUTO SPEAKS AGAIN...!

GET OUT, ALL OF YOU! YOU ARE DISMISSED! I WISH TO BE ALONE NOW!

BUT STAND BY FOR FURTHER ORDERS! YOU ARE NOT TO LEAVE THE STUDIO GROUNDS! NOW GO!

YES SIR! RIGHT AWAY! Y-YOU WON'T HAVETA TELL US TWICE!



THEN, ONCE ALONE IN HIS HAUNTINGLY STRANGE, SECURELY LOCKED OFFICE, PLUTO MAKES A MYSTIC PASS WITH HIS HAND, AS THE MOLECULES IN THE AIR SEEM SUDDENLY TO REARRANGE THEMSELVES INTO A FANTASTIC, FLAMING IMAGE...

SPEAK, SLAVE! HOW GOES MY UNDERWORLD DOMAIN IN MY ABSENCE? DO THE FIRES STILL BURN?

ALL IS WELL, MASTER... AS IT HAS EVER BEEN... AS IT SHALL EVER BE!

NAY, SLAVE! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES... THERE SHALL BE A CHANGE! NOW HEED THE WORDS OF PLUTO...!



EONS AGO... BEFORE THE DAWN OF HUMAN MEMORY... I WAS SENTENCED TO RULE THE *NETHERWORLD* BELOW! ONLY BY FINDING A FIT REPLACEMENT CAN I BE FREE OF THAT ODIUS DESTINY!

BUT NOW, AT LAST... I HAVE FOUND SUCH A REPLACEMENT! EVEN AS I SPEAK, THE UNSUSPECTING *HERCULES* APPROACHES... LITTLE DREAMING THE DREAD FATE THAT AWAITS HIM!

NOW, *BEGONE!* I MUST PREPARE FOR WHAT IS YET TO BE!



THUS DO FORCES BEYOND HUMAN KEN WEAVE A MIGHTY WEB OF WONDER! BUT NOW, WE MUST TURN ONCE MORE TO THE NOBLEST IMMORTAL OF ALL...

NO LONGER DO I HAVE STOMACH FOR THE STIFLING CITY!

I MUST FLY TO A PLACE FIT FOR A GOD... TO THINK!



FOR, THOUGH MY *POWER* HATH BEEN HALVED... IT IS STILL A FORCE THAT CAN ALTER *WORLDS!*

BUT, AS SURELY AS NIGHT DOETH FOLLOW DAY, I HAVE REACHED A *TURNING POINT*... A MOMENT OF GRAND DECISION!



I MUST YET DECIDE WHAT USE TO MAKE OF MY REMAINING POWER...

OR, SHALL I CAST OFF THE MANTLE OF *THUNDER* GOD? HAS IT BEEN PROVEN THAT MIGHTY *THOR* HATH BEEN FOUND... *UNWORTHY?*



AND SO, SILENTLY SEATED UPON A LONELY PROMONTORY, THE SON OF ODIN SEARCHES HIS SOUL... WRACKED BY DOUBTS, PLAGUED BY UNCERTAINTY, TORTURED BY CONSCIENCE...

TRULY, THERE CAN BE NO MORE ANGUISHED SPIRIT, THAN THAT OF A GOD IN TORTURE...



BUT, THE INDESCRIBABLE AGONY OF *THOR* IS MATCHED BY THAT OF LORDLY *ODIN*, WHO CAN BEAR TO OBSERVE THE SIGHT NO LONGER FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT IN FABLED *ASGARD*...

ENOUGH! I CAN ENDURE THE TORTURED VISAGE OF MY ERRANT SON NO MORE!



WHAT TOWERING MADNESS POSSESSED ME ???! TO THINK THAT ODIN WOULD THUS BETRAY THE FLESH OF HIS FLESH!

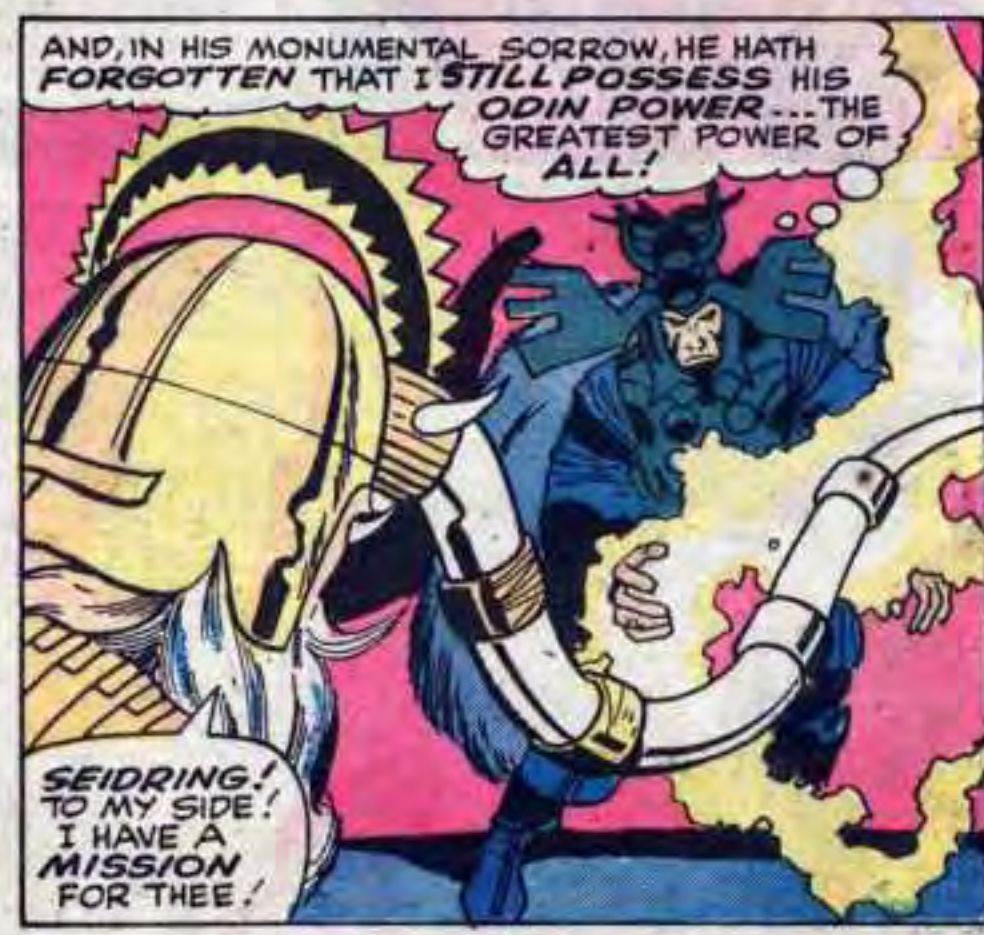
NAY, SIRE! PUNISHMENT IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE IS NEVER BETRAYAL!

FURTHER-MORE, 'T WAS NOT THEE... BUT SEIDRING WHO METED OUT THY SENTENCE!

I DID IT WITH THE AWESOME ODIN POWER WHICH THOU DIDST BESTOW UPON ME!



EVEN MIGHTY ODIN HAD NOT THE HEART TO DEAL SO HARSHLY WITH HIS SON... SO HE GAVE ME THE POWER!



AND, IN HIS MONUMENTAL SORROW, HE HATH FORGOTTEN THAT I STILL POSSESS HIS ODIN POWER... THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL!

SEIDRING! TO MY SIDE! I HAVE A MISSION FOR THEE!



NAY, ETERNAL ONE! I OBEY THEE NO LONGER! 'TIS I WHO NOW POSSESS THE POWER!

YOU DARE...??!!



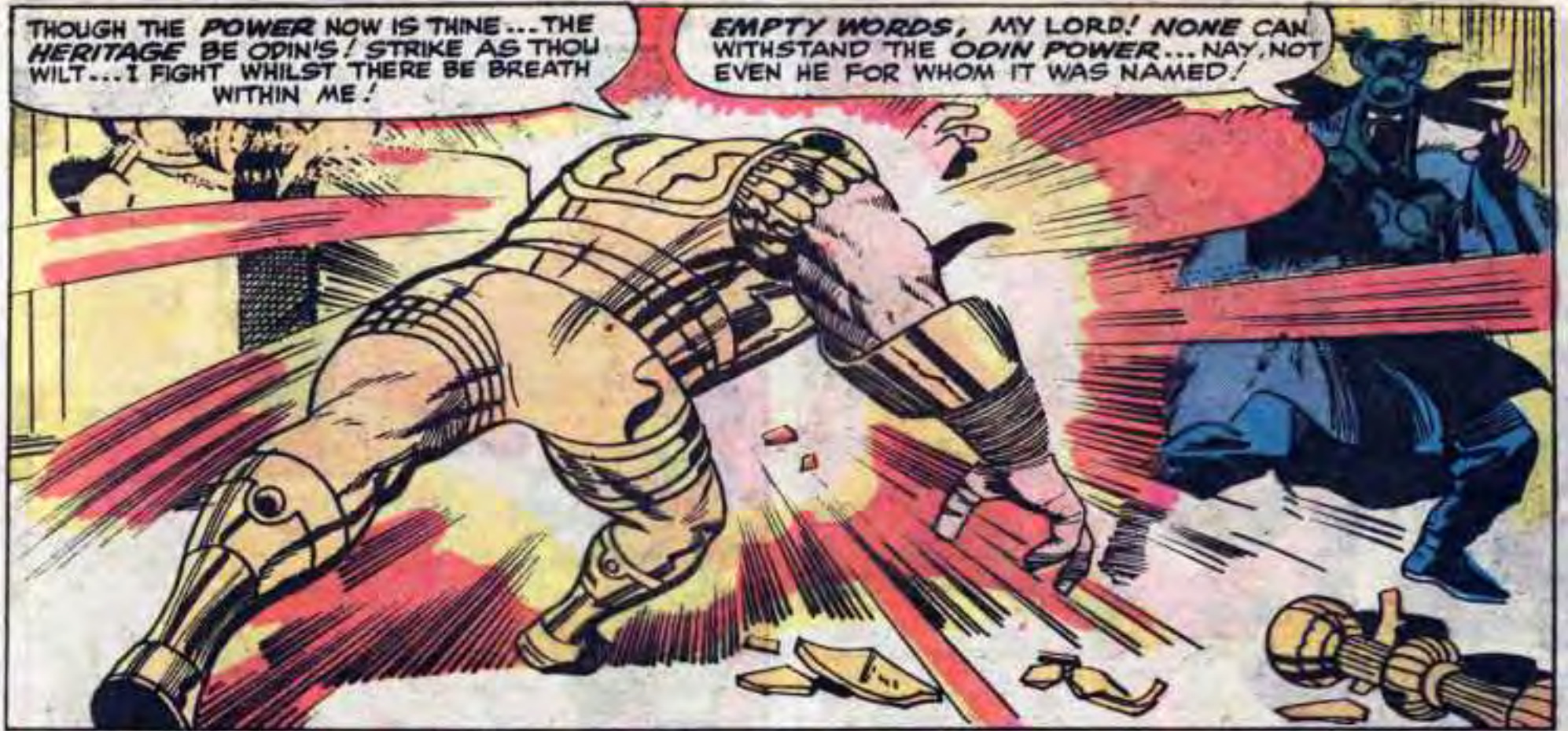
VERILY, MY LORD... I DARE!

KNOW YOU THEN THAT ODIN CALLS THEE TRAITOR!

THY NAME SHALL LIVE IN INFAMY, SO LONG AS MEMORY ENDURES!

THOUGH THE POWER NOW IS THINE... THE HERITAGE BE ODIN'S! STRIKE AS THOU WILT... I FIGHT WHILST THERE BE BREATH WITHIN ME!

EMPTY WORDS, MY LORD! NONE CAN WITHSTAND THE ODIN POWER... NAY, NOT EVEN HE FOR WHOM IT WAS NAMED!



IT CANNOT END THIS! THOU ART NOT FIT TO RULE! POWER, WITHOUT CONSCIENCE, MUST BE ITS OWN UNDOING!



NOBLE WORDS, MY LORD! A PITY THEY COULD NOT STEM THE FURY OF THE ODIN POWER!



THY REIGN IS ENDED! THE ERA OF SEIDRING, THE ALL-POWERFUL, HAS NOW BEGUN!

SEIDRING! WHAT FATE HATH BEFALLEN OMNI-POTENT ODIN?

BACK, BALDER! LOWER THY HEAD! PAY HOMAGE TO THE NEW OVERLORD OF ASGARD!



ODIN IS DETHRONED! I AM THE POWER NOW! SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO SEIDRING, OR FACE THE FURY OF THE ODIN POWER!



ALLEGIANCE TO SUCH AS THEE?? I WOULD SUFFER DAMNATION FIRST!

AND, EVEN AS BRAVE **BALDER** HURLS HIS CHALLENGING CRY OF DEFIANCE, A BROODING FIGURE SLOWLY STRIDES THE GLEAMING RAINBOW BRIDGE TO ASGARD...



I MUST RETURN TO FACE MY FATHER! NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, LET ME ACQUIT MYSELF WITH HONOR!

ON AND ON, ACROSS THE SEEMINGLY-ENDLESS SPAN, WALKS THE GOD OF THUNDER, UNTIL AT LAST HE REACHES THE TOWERING GATES OF ETERNAL ASGARD, ONLY TO FIND...

HEIMDALL! GUARDIAN OF THE BRIDGE! IMPRISONED IN A BLOCK OF ETHEREAL FORCE!

TURN BACK, NOBLE THOR! EVEN THY MIGHT CANNOT SAVE ASGARD FROM WHAT AWAITS THEE BEYOND THE GATES!



BUT, THE SON OF ODIN DOES NOT TURN BACK! HIS HEART HEAVILY POUNDING WITHIN HIM, THE GOD OF THUNDER STORMS INTO THE STRANGELY SILENT CELESTIAL CITY...

ONLY MY FATHER'S ODIN POWER CAN CONTROL THE PROPERTIES OF ETHEREAL FORCE!

BUT, SURELY THE ALL-WISE WOULD NEVER TREAT FAITHFUL HEIMDALL IN SUCH MANNER!



WARRIORS OF ASGARD! IMPRISONED BY ETHEREAL ENERGY BANDS! WHAT MADNESS IS THIS??

TURN BACK, GOD OF THUNDER... LEST THOU TOO SUFFER OUR FATE!

WHAT HATH TRANSPIRED FOR ODIN TO RELEASE SUCH FURY??



'TIS NOT THY FATHER'S DOING, MIGHTY ONE! HE SUFFERS A FATE NO BETTER THAN OURS!





WITH THOSE FATEFUL WORDS RINGING IN HIS EARS, THE THUNDER GOD THROWS CAUTION TO THE WINDS, RACING TO THE HEART OF THE CITY, UNTIL HE SEES...

BALDER! THOU TOO ART FROZEN INTO IMMOBILITY, AS ARE THY COMRADES AT ARMS! BY WHOSE HAND, LOYAL ONE? WHO HATH DONE THIS DIRE DEED??

IF ANY HARM HATH BEFALLEN NOBLE ODIN..!



MORE THAN HARM HAS COME TO THY FATHER, THUNDER GOD! HE HATH LOST A UNIVERSE!

A RING OF CELESTIAL FLAME... DRAWING CLOSER TO ME!

AND THAT VOICE! A VOICE I HAVE HEARD BEFORE! A VOICE MY FATHER ONCE DID TRUST...



...THE VOICE OF SEIDRING, THE MERCILESS!

YEA, SON OF ODIN... 'TIS I WHO NOW RULE ASGARD ... AND HENCE, THE WORLD! YOU HAVE SEEN THE FATE OF THOSE WHO DEFIED ME... BUT, YOU NEED NOT SHARE THAT FATE...!



SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO ME, AND THOU SHALT BE MY OWN RIGHT ARM!

ODIN DOES NOT DESERVE THY LOYALTY! DID HE NOT HUMBLE THEE BEFORE HERCULES? HATH HE NOT STRIPPED THEE OF HALF THY POWER?

TRUE, SEIDRING! MY FATHER HATH DONE ALL THAT... AND MORE! AND THIS IS MY REPLY..



MAY THY FLAMES CONSUME ME THROUGHOUT ETERNITY, ERE I TURN MY BACK UPON HIM WHO HATH SIREN ME... UPON ODIN, THE TRUE RIGHTFUL MASTER OF ALL!

FOOL! THOU HAST SEALED THY DOOM! THE FLAMES WHICH SURROUND THEE ARE BUT AN ILLUSION, CREATED TO TEST THY METTLE...

BUT NOW... THE ODIN POWER WHICH THOU SHALT FACE WILL BE NO MERE ILLUSION..!

AND, IN HOLLYWOOD, A FANTASTICALLY GARBED, BREATH-TAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL FEMALE ENTERS THE OFFICE OF THE ONE CALLED PLUTO...

COME IN! I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

OF COURSE! DO MEN NOT WAIT FOR ME ALWAYS?

AND WHAT OF MY COSTUME? DOES IT SUIT THE ROLE YOU WISH ME TO PLAY?

INDEED! IT TRULY BEFITS THE ONE WHO IS QUEEN OF THE AMAZONS!

ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU HAVE REHEARSED YOUR PART TO PERFECTION?

DO NOT FEAR! I SHALL NOT FAIL!

HERCULES CANNOT HELP BUT LOSE HIS HEART TO ME!

AND, HE SHALL REGRET IT... FOREVER-MORE!

TRUE... TRUE! BUT, YOU ARE MERELY ONE SEGMENT OF MY MASTER PLAN!

THIS INNOCENT-LOOKING CONTRACT IS STILL ANOTHER... AN EQUALLY DIABOLICAL GAMBIT!

FOR, WITHIN MY HAND, I HOLD A GENUINE OLYMPIAN PACT... ONE WHICH CAN NEVER BE BROKEN... WHICH LASTS FOR ALL ETERNITY!

WHAT A PITY THAT HERCULES WILL NOT BEGIN TO SUSPECT THAT WHICH HE IS ABOUT TO SIGN!

BUT, EVEN AS THE MIGHTY-MUSCLED SON OF ZEUS INNOCENTLY APPROACHES THE MYSTERIOUS STUDIO, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THE SPECTACULAR TABLEAU WHICH AWAITS US IN ASGARD...

HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO ATTACK ONE WHO POSSESSES THE ODIN POWER?

SEE HOW EASILY I DISTORT THE FABRIC OF SPACE ITSELF TO DEFLECT THY BLOW!

NO MATTER, EVIL ONE...

.. DO AS THOU WILT... THOR FIGHTS ON!

THE SON OF ODIN HATH KNOWN THE BITTER TASTE OF DEFEAT IN THE PAST... BUT HE HATH NEVER ENDURED THE IGNOMINY OF SURRENDER!

THEN *THAT* SHALL BE MY GREATEST TRIUMPH! NEVER SHALL I REST UNTIL I HAVE WRENCHED THE WORD "ENOUGH" FROM THY TREMBLING LIPS!



THEN, WITH A CASUAL GESTURE, THE EVIL SEIDRING DIRECTS A POTENT RAY INTO THE COSMOS... SEIZING A TRIO OF PLANETOIDS LIKE FISH IN A NET...!



... AS, WITH STILL ANOTHER DISDAINFUL MOTION, HE DIRECTS THEM... WITH UNABATED SPEED... AT THE HAP-  
LESS GOD OF THUNDER ...!

AFTER BUT A FEW MOMENTS' SAMPLING OF MY LIMITLESS POWER, ARROGANT ONE, THE WORDS OF *SURRENDER* WILL SEEK THY LIPS WITH MOST AGONIZING SWIFTNES!



BUT, THE IMMORTAL AVENGER DARTS, LEAPS, SWERVES, RACES... FRANTICALLY ELUDING THE DEADLY SPACE MISSILES... FIGHTING TILL THE END... AND PLANNING ALL THE WHILE...!



IF I DROP TO THE GROUND NOW, MAYHAP FORTUNE WILL FAVOR ME...!

UNEXPECTEDLY HURLING HIMSELF ONTO THE COLD MARBLE FLOOR, THE PRINCE OF ASGARD BARELY ESCAPES THE CATAclysmic IMPACT OF THE THREE METEORITES AS THEY DEAFENINGLY HURTLE INTO EACH OTHER!





I THANK THEE, GOD OF THUNDER, FOR PROVIDING ME SUCH SPORT!



AND NOW, LET THE GAME CONTINUE...

IS THERE NO END TO THIS MADNESS?? A STRANGE GLOBULAR SUBSTANCE BURSTS FORTH FROM THE GROUND BENEATH ME...



THEN, BEFORE THE VALIANT ASGARDIAN CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, A MYSTIC IRRESISTIBLE FORCE PULLS HIM INTO THE CENTER OF THE FANTASTIC GLOBULE!



I'M BEING WHIRLED ABOUT... IN A VORTEX OF LIQUIFIED WOLFBANE!

USING THE POWER HE HATH STOLEN FROM MY FATHER, SEIDRING TOYS WITH ME AT WILL!



THOU CANST NOT BREAK FREE OF YON GLOBULE.. AND LO, THE WOLFBANE SHALL DRAIN THE LAST REMAINING BREATH FROM THY BODY!

THEREFORE, THOU HAST NO CHOICE BUT TO SURRENDER!



NEVER, THOU BASEST OF VILLAINS!!

THOUGH THIS BREATH BE MY LAST... I SAY THEE... NEVER!

BUT, NO SOONER HAS THOR HURLED HIS DEFIANT WORDS BACK AT SEIDRING, THAN THE DEADLY BUBBLE BURSTS... UNABLE TO CONTAIN THE DYNAMIC FORCE OF THE SON OF ODIN, WHO HAS NEVER CEASED STRUGGLING WITHIN!



I'M FREE!!  
THE FURY OF THE  
GLOBULE HATH  
SPENT  
ITSELF!

WHAT MANNER OF BEING ART THOU? KNOWING FULL WELL THAT NAUGHT CAN EQUAL THE SUPREME ODIN POWER, STILL THOU FIGHTEST ON!

AND YET, THERE  
CAN BE BUT  
ONE RESULT...



NOW, THUNDER  
GOD... PREPARE  
FOR THY  
DOOM!

A THOUSAND TIMES NAY,  
SCION OF DARKNESS! I  
PREPARE FOR  
BATTLE... AS  
I HAVE EVER  
DONE!

THE  
POWER IS  
THINE... BUT  
THE CAUSE  
IS MINE! MY  
HAMMER  
STRIKES FOR  
JUSTICE!



SO SAYING, THE RAGING, RAMPAGING GOD OF THUNDER, SWINGS HIS URU MALLET AS ONLY THE MIGHTY THOR CAN... SHATTERING ALL ABOUT HIM, AND HURLING THE FRAGMENTS AT HIS AWE-STRIKEN FOE....!



BUT, STILL THE ODIN POWER IS SEIDRING'S... AND, WITH THE MEREST FLICK OF A FINGER, THE EVIL USURPER CREATES AN IMPENETRABLE CRYSTAL SHIELD ABOUT HIM, WHEREIN HE STANDS, SECURE FROM ANY AND ALL HARM!

DO THY WORST, ACCURSED  
ONE! THE ULTIMATE ANSWER  
SHALL YET BE MINE!



NO MATTER WHAT THE POWER... NO MATTER WHAT THE THREAT... THIS DO I SAY UNTO THEE... THOU SHALT NEVER RULE HALLOWED ASGARD!



WHAT!! THOU DARE SPEAK THIS TO ME??!

VERILY... FOR I BE THOR!!

STILL AM I GOD OF THUNDER AND LIGHTNING! STILL DO I WIELD MINE HAMMER!



WHOOOOM!

MOVING WITH DAZZLING SPEED, MIGHTY THOR CAUSES A SUDDEN BURST OF LIGHTNING... SO ELECTRIFYING... SO INTENSE... THAT THE SINISTER SEIDRING IS TEMPORARILY BLINDED BY ITS BRILLIANCE...



THE PAINFUL BRIGHTNESS... I CANNOT SEE!

BUT, SECONDS LATER, THROUGH USE OF THE OMNI-POTENT ODIN POWER, THE MERCILESS USURPER ONCE AGAIN LOCATES HIS FOE...



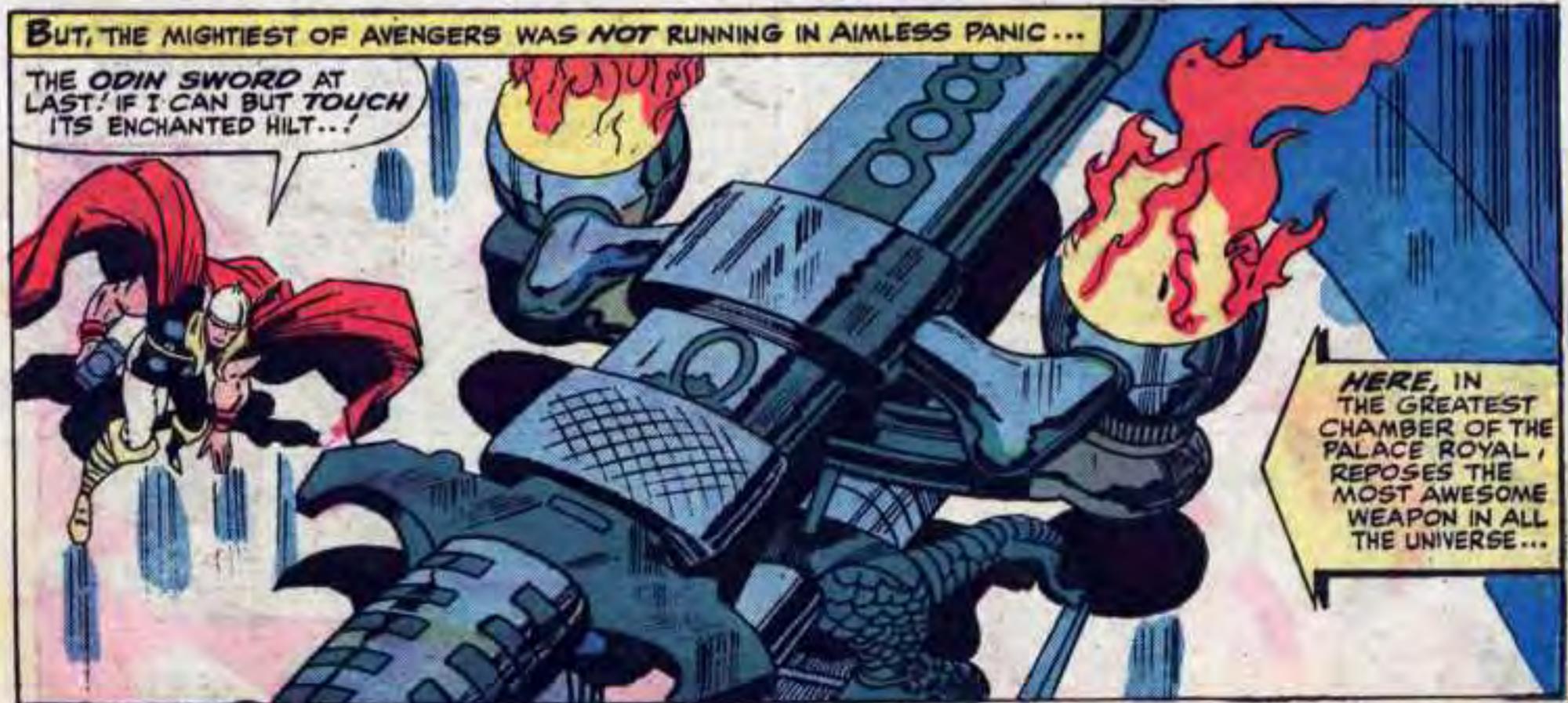
THE FOOL! DOES HE THINK TO ELUDE SEIDRING BY FLEEING LIKE A FRIGHTENED JACKAL??!

HEAR ME, THOR! THE GAME HATH COME TO AN END!

I SHALL NOW SEND THEE TO A NAMELESS LIMBO... FOREVER!

BUT, THE MIGHTIEST OF AVENGERS WAS NOT RUNNING IN AIMLESS PANIC...

THE ODIN SWORD AT LAST! IF I CAN BUT TOUCH ITS ENCHANTED HILT...!



HERE, IN THE GREATEST CHAMBER OF THE PALACE ROYAL, REPOSES THE MOST AWESOME WEAPON IN ALL THE UNIVERSE...

REALIZING WHAT THOR'S OBJECTIVE IS, SEIDRING FEELS THE ICY PANGS OF FEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS HE STRIKES WILDLY... DESPERATELY...

I DARE NOT UNLEASH A MAJOR BLOW, FOR FEAR OF TOUCHING YON ODIN SWORD!

AS ALL OF ASGARD KNOWS FULL WELL, WHEN FALLS THE ODIN SWORD, THE COSMOS ITSELF SHALL VANISH!



THUS I STRIKE THE THUNDER GOD WITH NOTHING STRONGER THAN A CAREFULLY AIMED BOLT OF ENERGY!

BUT, THOUGH WEAKENED TO THE POINT OF FINAL COLLAPSE, STILL THE SON OF ODIN WILL NOT YIELD...

I CANNOT STOP NOW! I CANNOT WALLOW IN DEFEAT SO NEAR TO VICTORY!

I MUST REACH THE SWORD... THOUGH IT COST ME MY VERY LIFE!



AND THEN, AS THE CONFUSED, FEARFUL SEIDRING WATCHES IN MOUNTING PANIC, NOT DARING TO LAUNCH A NEW ATTACK UPON ONE SO CLOSE TO THE ODIN SWORD, THOR MAKES HIS MOVE...

BY THE TOWERING SPIRES OF ASGARD...



...MAY ODIN GRANT THAT I DO NOT FAIL!

AND THEN... AT LAST... THE PRIZE IS WON!

SEIDRING... HEED MY WORDS!

RETURN THE ODIN POWER, OR I DROP THE GREAT SWORD!



THOU KNOWEST FULL WELL WHAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD MEAN! AND KNOW YOU THIS... I HAVE THE WILL TO DO IT!

DECIDE, EVIL ONE! RETURN THE POWER TO MY NOBLE FATHER... OR ALL SHALL PERISH!

I DO NOT UTTER IDLE WORDS! WHAT ASGARDIAN WOULD NOT PREFER DEATH TO BEING RULED BY SUCH AS THEE??!



YOU CHOOSE NOT TO SPEAK! THEN MUST THE SWORD BE DROPPED! LET THIS MOMENT BE UPON THY HEAD, TRAITOR... FOR ALL ETERNITY

NO! NO! DO NOT DROP IT! THE VICTORY IS THINE! I DO YIELD! SEIDRING YIELDS!



IF THE ODIN POWER CANNOT DEFEAT ONE LONE WARRIOR... THEN TRULY IT DOETH NOT MERIT SO MANY LIVES!

'T WAS NOT MERELY ONE LONE WARRIOR! -- THOU DIDST BATTLE THE THUNDER GOD!

REALIZING WHAT THOR'S OBJECTIVE IS, SEIDRING FEELS THE ICY PANGS OF FEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS HE STRIKES WILDLY... DESPERATELY...

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THOU MUST **STAND AWAY** FROM YON SWORD! THE SLIGHTEST JAR... THE SMALLEST MOVE... COULD SPELL **DISASTER!**

LET THE POWER BE **ODIN'S** ONCE MORE! **SEIDRING HATH YIELDED!** THE BATTLE IS ENDED!



AND THEN, A MAJESTIC **FIGURE** APPEARS BEFORE THEIR EYES... BATHED IN AN AURA OF SHIMMERING, **CRACKLING FORCE...**

THE POWER IS **MINE** ONCE AGAIN! **SO BE IT!**

**ODIN!!**



**GET THEE FROM MINE SIGHT,** THOU BASE **BETRAYER!**

TIME ENOW TO DEAL WITH THEE **LATER!** FOR TRULY, THERE BE NO PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE FOR THEE TO **HIDE** FROM MINE VENGEANCE!

VERILY, IT DOETH GRIEVE MY HEART TO REMEMBER HOW ONCE I HELD HIM IN HIGHEST ESTEEM!



BUT, WHAT OF **THOR?** WHAT OF HIM WHO IS MY **SON?**



CONSCIOUSNESS HATH FLED FROM THY BODY! THY EARS HEAR NOT THE WORDS OF ODIN... WORDS OF HIM WHO HATH JUDGED THEE TOO HARSHLY!



THOUGH I AM SAID TO BE ALL-WISE IN ALL MATTER OF THINGS... MY WISDOM **FLED** WHEN I TURNED AGAINST **THEE...** MY SON!



FOR, ABOVE ALL ELSE, I HOLD **THIS TRUE...**

THOU ART THE **NOBLEST** ASSGARDIAN OF ALL!