

HIS NAME IS ARTHUR CURRY--  
BUT THE WORLD HAS LONG  
SINCE FORGOTTEN THAT FACT.  
INSTEAD IT REMEMBERS A  
SUPER-HERO, THE  
UNCHALLENGED MASTER  
OF THE OCEANS--A MAN  
WHO HAS BEEN CROWNED  
KING OF ATLANTIS, THE  
MIGHTY UNDERSEA NATION  
--A MAN WHO MARRIED A  
SUPER-HEROINE, WHO  
IN TURN GAVE BIRTH TO  
HIS HEIR.

ALL OF THAT HAS BEEN  
TORN FROM HIM NOW--  
HIS RULE OF THE SEA,  
THE THRONE OF ATLANTIS  
--EVEN HIS VERY FAMILY.  
IN SHORT, HE IS...

# AQUAMAN

SEA KING IN EXILE

AND THIS IS THE STORY OF HIS DARKEST HOUR--

# CROWN, CRISIS AND CATAclysm

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GOOD KING NEPTUNE, GOD OF THE SEAS, I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...MY ENTIRE LIFE IS DRIFTING APART LIKE SO MUCH SEA-WEED! CAN KARSHOV HATE ME THAT MUCH?

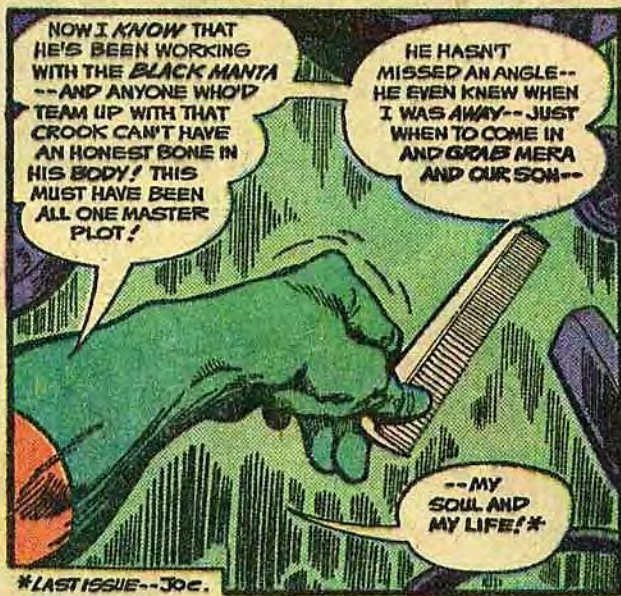
FIRST HE CONVINCED MY PEOPLE THAT I WASN'T A GOOD KING-- THAT I SPENT TOO LITTLE TIME PERFORMING MY ROYAL DUTIES...



NO SOONER WAS HE CROWNED KING THAN HE FRAMED ME--ANNOUNCED I STOLE SERUM X...\*

IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE THEN-- BUT IT DOES NOW!

\*SEE ADVENTURE# 444-- JDC.



NOW I KNOW THAT HE'S BEEN WORKING WITH THE BLACK MANTA --AND ANYONE WHO'D TEAM UP WITH THAT CROOK CAN'T HAVE AN HONEST BONE IN HIS BODY! THIS MUST HAVE BEEN ALL ONE MASTER PLOT!

HE HASN'T MISSED AN ANGLE-- HE EVEN KNEW WHEN I WAS AWAY-- JUST WHEN TO COME IN AND GRAB MERA AND OUR SON--

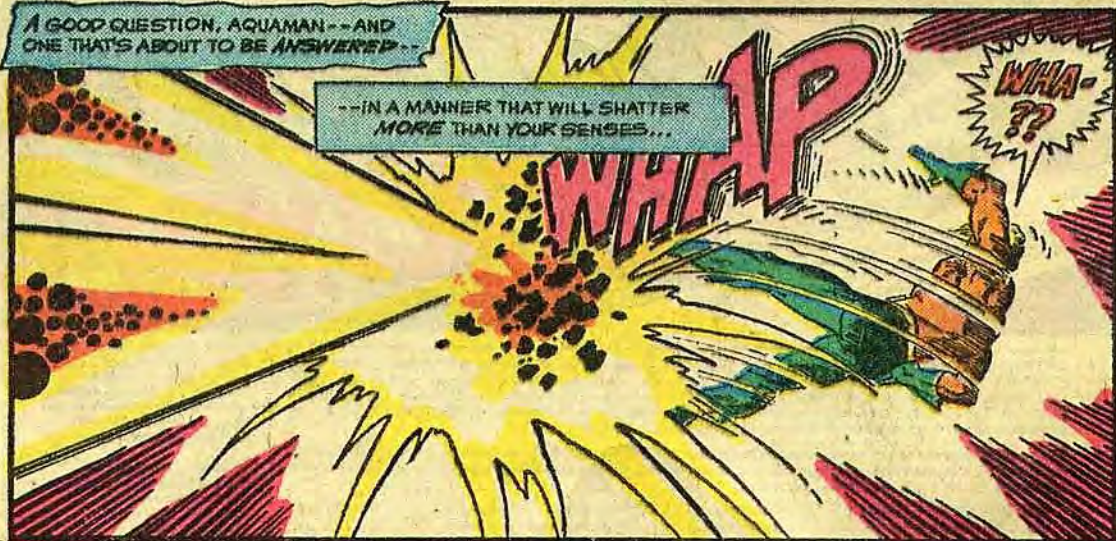
--MY SOUL AND MY LIFE!\*

\*LAST ISSUE-- JDC.



NOW I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THEY'RE ALIVE...THE FISH SAW THEM BEING TAKEN AWAY BY SHARKS, BUT A MINNOW CAN'T TELL AN UNCONSCIOUS HUMAN FROM A CORPSE!

WHY, NEPTUNE-- WHY ME?



A GOOD QUESTION, AQUAMAN-- AND ONE THAT'S ABOUT TO BE ANSWERED--

--IN A MANNER THAT WILL SHATTER MORE THAN YOUR SENSES...

WHA??



MANTA--!! YOU DARED COME HERE-- NOW--AND ATTACK ME?! AFTER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN--

NO, AQUAMAN--I CAME HERE BECAUSE OF WHAT I'VE DONE! I AM KARSHON'S MAN NOW--

--AND WITH YOUR DEFEAT, I SHALL HAVE EARNED MY REWARD FROM HIM AT LAST!



WHERE ARE THEY, MANTA--WHERE IS MY WIFE-- MY CHILD?



FOOL-- WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN SKIN INSTEAD--



--WHILE YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE OF SAVING IT!



THE SEA-WITCH AND HER BRAT ARE BEYOND YOUR HELP NOW!



WORDS FLOW SLOWLY--EACH ONE FIRING FROM HIS MOUTH IN A SURGING BLAST OF HATRED..

WHAT...HAVE... YOU...DONE... WITH...THEM--?!



IS IT ANY WONDER, THAT THE CALM RATIONAL MIND OF A HERO IS BECLOUDED WITH EMOTION-- WITH RAGE--?

YOU...YOU FILTHY... BLOOD-SUCKING LEECH! WHAT HAVE--



IS IT ANY WONDER, THAT HE SHOULD MAKE...A MISTAKE?

--YOU DUUUHHNNN

NEXT TIME, YOU WON'T FORGET MY RAY-BLASTS, AQUAMAN--

--BUT THEN AGAIN, THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME! NOT FOR YOU!

CRIME HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN IN ATLANTIS FOR YEARS, AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, SO ARE JAILS. BUT THERE IS ONE PRISON IN THE STATELY UNDER-WATER CITY--

--A PRISON WHICH HAS JUST DOUBLED ITS NUMBER OF INMATES...

PRaise NEPTUNE, HE WAKES...

UNNH... VULKO!

YES, MY KING-- AND WE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN... THOUGH IN FAR LESS PLEASANT SURROUNDINGS THAN BEFORE!

WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE, MY FRIEND? AND STOP CALLING ME KING-- IT ONLY REOPENS OLD WOUNDS!

WE ARE IN THE ROYAL PALACE, IN A DUNGEON BUILT FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND LITTLE USED IN YOUR DAYS, THOUGH IT GAINS INCREASING POPULARITY WITH YOUR SUCCESSOR, KARSHON!

IS MERA HERE--OR MY SON?

NO, MY LORD. I HAVE NOT SEEN THEM. YOU ARE MY ONLY REMINDER OF THE TIME WHEN ATLANTIS WAS RULED BY A KING--

--AND NOT BY A TYRANT!

SEE HOW HE SPEAKS OF YOU? I SHOULD SLAY HIM AND LET HIS BONES ROT IN HIS CHAINS!

YOU HAVE DONE ENOUGH, MANTA... YOU HAVE EARNED YOUR PRICE!

I STILL WISH YOU HAD LET ME KILL AQUAMAN!

ENOUGH, I SAID... HIS DEATH IS MINE, AND MINE ALONE! ALL ELSE HAS BEEN FOR NAUGHT IF HE IS NOT MY PREY-- MY KILL!

HERE IS THE MAP OF THE HIDDEN DEEPS AND THE CITY OF THE LOST TRIBES! YOU HAVE YOUR REWARD--NOW GO!

YES...I SHALL GO--

--BUT ONE DAY I SHALL RETURN, KARSHON, WITH THE LOST TRIBE AT MY SIDE! AND THEN WE SHALL HAVE A RECKONING-- AND YOU WILL PAY FOR THAT SLAP-- WITH YOUR LIFE!

NOW THE GAME TRULY BEGINS, MY BROTHER-- WE SHALL SUMMON AQUAMAN, AND HUNT ONCE MORE!

CONTINUED ON 358 PAGE FOLLOWING

CONSIDER A PRISON--GEOGRAPHICALLY IT LIES WELL WITHIN THE POWER CENTER OF A GREAT CITY-- ONLY A FEW DOZEN FEET BELOW THE THRONE ROOM OF ATLANTIS...

SO NEAR, IN FACT, THAT GUARDS REACH THE CELL EVEN BEFORE THE ECHO OF KARSHON'S WORDS DIE IN THE HALLS ABOVE...

COME, AQUAMAN... IT IS TIME FOR THE KING TO HEAR YOUR CASE, AND ANNOUNCE YOUR PUNISHMENT!

PUNISHMENT?-- FOR A CRIME I NEVER COMMITTED? IS THAT JUSTICE IN ATLANTIS NOW?

AYE--AND FAR BETTER THAN YOU DESERVE FOR BETRAYING YOUR PEOPLE, TRAITOR!

KARSHON TOLD US HOW YOU SOLD SERUM X TO THE SURFACE PEOPLE --THE CORPORATIONS-- SO THEY COULD MINE THE OCEAN DEPTHS...

... STEAL OUR RESOURCES!

YOU DARE SPEAK THAT WAY TO YOUR KING--

--AFTER ALL HEEEBE--

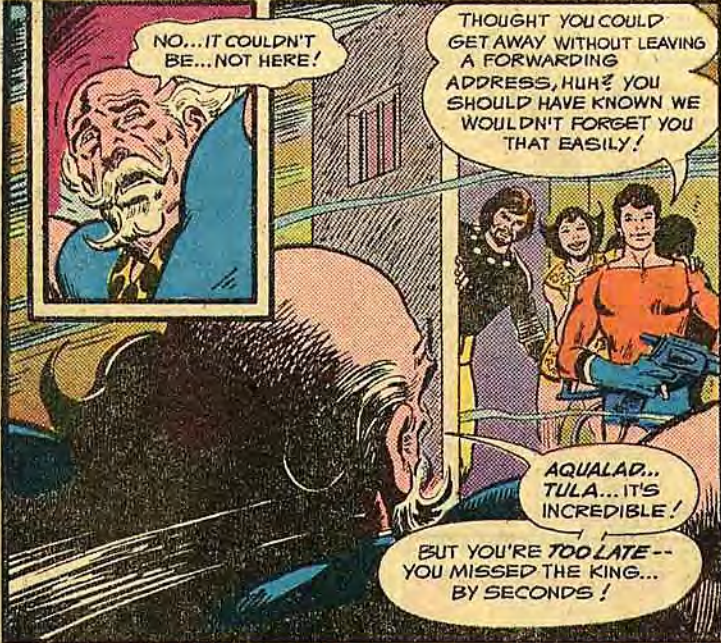
SILENCE! HE IS NOT OUR KING-- BUT PERHAPS HE IS YOURS--

--IF SCUM LIKE YOU CAN BE SAID TO HAVE A KING AT ALL!

CONSIDER A PRISON-- PSYCHOLOGICALLY, IT IS A WORLD APART-- ONE WHERE A GENTLE OLD MAN MAY BE BEATEN, HIS LOYALTY TO HIS CITY-STATE FORGOTTEN...

...THOUGH NOT BY ALL--

VULKO... DOCTOR VULKO...



NO...IT COULDN'T BE...NOT HERE!

THOUGHT YOU COULD GET AWAY WITHOUT LEAVING A FORWARDING ADDRESS, HUH? YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WE WOULDN'T FORGET YOU THAT EASILY!

AQUALAD... TULA... IT'S INCREDIBLE!

BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE -- YOU MISSED THE KING... BY SECONDS!



AQUAMAN? HERE?

IT DOESN'T MATTER, AQUALAD. WE CAME HERE FOR VULKO, AND HE'S THE ONLY ONE WE NEED!

AQUAMAN CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF!



SURE... BUT I WISH I KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING, MUPO!

NOT SURPRISING, YOUTH-- AND I FIND MYSELF FEELING THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU! WHAT ARE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS DOING?

AND WHY DO YOU NEED ME?



WE'RE WORKING UP A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR KARSHON, WITH MUPO HERE-- AND WE THOUGHT YOU COULD HELP...

BESIDES... YOU'RE TOO CUTE TO KEEP OUT OF CIRCULATION!

B-BUT...

SHH... WE'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, VULKO... JUST HOLD ON...

AN EXPLANATION THAT WE SHALL MISS, READER, AS WE TURN FROM FOUR WHISPERING FIGURES IN A PRISON--



-- TO A MAN IN THE PALACE ABOVE, WHOSE VOICE RASPS OUT COMMANDS IN A TONE MORE SUITED FOR A BEAST OF PREY...

BRING OUT THE TRAITOR!



ARTHUR CURRY, YOU STAND ACCUSED BY THE CROWN OF CRIMES AGAINST THE CITY-STATE. YOU HAVE BEEN A TRAITOR TO YOUR PEOPLE--

-- STEALING FROM THEM, BREAKING THE COMMANDS OF ME, THEIR LAWFUL KING-- AND NOW, DARING TO RETURN FROM EXILE UNBIDDEN!

HOW DO YOU PLEAD?



PLEAD? YOU MEAN *BEG*, DON'T YOU, KARSHON? GET DOWN ON MY KNEES AND BESEECH YOU-- ASKING FOR MERCY?



MAY I PRAY TO YOU AS WELL? APPEAL FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR SINCE I DID NOT COMMIT-- CRIMES YOU INVENTED?



I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU-- KARSHON-- THAT'S JUST NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!

YOU'RE A FOOL, AQUAMAN, AS WELL AS A TRAITOR! WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS WILL ACCOMPLISH--?



YOUR DEATH, KARSHON. AND THAT'S ALL I WANT!

HOLD YOUR FIRE, GUARDS... I WILL DEAL WITH THIS MADMAN MYSELF!



THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH HATE-- A BITTER TASTE IN EVERY DROP OF WATER THAT CIRCULATES AROUND THE ONCE AND PRESENT KINGS.

WITHIN THEIR HEARTS, EACH WATCHER SILENTLY SUPPORTS ONE OR THE OTHER-- AND HOPES FOR HIS VISION OF THE FUTURE TO BE TRUE.

NEVER THOUGHT  
I'D SEE THIS HAPPEN  
...SHOWS THAT YOU  
CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY!

YEAH! EXCEPT  
KARSHON, OF  
COURSE!

BUT FOR TWO WHO HAVE BROKEN THAT SILENCE,  
THE FUTURE IS ABOUT TO BE--

--CANCELLED.

ARRRRGH!

WHILE ANOTHER CONFLICT ALSO DRAWS  
TO ITS CONCLUSION...

ENOUGH,  
AQUAMAN!

SURRENDERING,  
KARSHON? YOU  
SURPRISE ME. I  
WOULD HAVE THOUGHT  
YOU'D DO ANYTHING  
TO AVOID TELLING  
THE TRUTH!

THE TRUTH  
I WILL TELL,  
AQUAMAN--

--AND MY FIRST  
TRUTH IS THAT I'M  
NOT SURRENDERING!

YOU  
ARE!

WHOOOSH!

CONTINUED ON 35<sup>TH</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING





AND MY SECOND TRUTH IS THAT YOUR ACTIONS HAVE PROVEN MY EARLIER ACCUSATION! YOU ARE A MENACE, AND YOUR DAYS MUST BE NUMBERED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE STATE!



THEREFORE, I SENTENCE YOU TO--



HALT THIS FARCE, KARSHON! YOUR CLOAK OF RIGHTOUSNESS HAS BEEN PIERCED --FOREVER!

GOOD PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS, YOU KNOW ME. I SERVED YOU BEFORE EITHER OF THESE MEN WERE NAMED KING!

I HAVE SERVED THE CAUSE OF TRUTH STILL LONGER--AND THAT IS WHY I AM HERE TODAY... TO TELL YOU THAT IT IS KARSHON WHO LIES --



LIES--TELLING OF CRIMES NEVER COMMITTED! LIES --TELLING YOU THAT VULKO HAD DIED PEACEFULLY IN HIS SLEEP, WHILE SECRETLY IMPRISONING HIM!

LIES--HIDING A FACTORY THAT PRODUCED LASER RIFLES FOR HIS FORCES --A FACTORY ON THE SURFACE WORLD!

KILL THE LIAR--KILL HIM!!



FOR I AM A HUNTER, AQUAMAN--  
THE DEADLIEST THE WORLD HAS  
EVER KNOWN-- AND I HUNT ONLY  
THE MOST POWERFUL PREY!

I HAVE RETURNED  
TO MY NATURAL TERRITORY  
--TO THE SEA-- AND IT IS  
HERE THAT I HAVE BEGUN  
MY HUNT FOR THE MOST  
DANGEROUS CREATURES  
ON EARTH!

MY FIRST VICTIM WAS  
GREEN LANTERN\*,... THE  
ONE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!  
THEN I BATTLED YOUR SO-  
CALLED SUPERMAN-- BUT  
BOTH TRICKED ME!

\* IN GREEN LANTERN # 24 -- JOE

BUT THEY ARE LAND  
DWELLERS, AND COULD  
DEFEAT ME WITH SECRETS  
I COULDN'T KNOW! NOT  
SO YOU, AQUAMAN-- YOU  
LIVE IN MY WORLD--

-- AND NOW YOU  
SHALL DIE IN IT  
AS WELL!

SUPERMAN AND GL  
DIDN'T STOP YOU 'CAUSE  
THEY WERE LAND DWELLERS,  
SHARK-- THEY STOPPED  
YOU BECAUSE THEY'RE  
HEROES!

WHEN YOU  
DETHRONED  
ME, YOU TOLD  
ME TO BE A  
SUPER-HERO\*  
-- AND I'M  
GOING TO  
STOP YOU  
TOO!

YOU WON'T,  
AQUAMAN-- NOR  
WILL THE OTHER  
ATLANTEANS-- NOT  
UNLESS YOU WOULD  
SLAY YOUR WIFE AND  
CHILD AS WELL,  
"HERO"--

\* SEE ADVENTURE # 44 -- JOE

I THOUGHT  
NOT... HERO!  
HA HA HA HA!

I'LL KILL  
YOU FOR THIS,  
SHARK... TODAY,  
TOMORROW, OR  
TEN YEARS  
FROM NOW--  
BUT I'LL KILL  
YOU!

YOU HAVE NO  
TOMORROWS,  
AQUAMAN. EVERY  
STAGE OF THIS  
HAS BEEN  
PLANNED,  
FROM THE DAY  
I BEGAN  
TELEPATHICALLY  
CONTROLLING  
THE ATLANTEAN  
COUNCIL--

-- TO BLACK  
MANTA'S DESIGN  
FOR THE UNIQUE  
CAGE THAT HOLDS  
YOUR WIFE-- AND  
RESISTS THE  
EVERY EFFORT OF  
HER HARD WATER  
POWERS!

YOUR OLD FOES  
MANTA AND THE  
FISHERMAN AIDED  
ME-- AND VULKO, THE  
ONLY ATLANTEAN  
WHO RESISTED MY  
POWER WAS  
IMPRISONED... A  
FATE MUCH KINDER  
THAN THE ONE WHICH  
NOW AWAITS YOU!

FOR NOW I  
SHALL HUNT YOU,  
AQUAMAN... NOW  
THAT YOU KNOW  
THE MEASURE  
OF MY POWER!

AND YOUR FAMILY  
SHALL BE HOSTAGES  
TO THE FAIRNESS OF  
THE HUNT! IF YOU  
EVADE MY JAWS FOR  
AN HOUR, THEY  
SHALL GO FREE!

"**BUT WHEN I AM VICTORIOUS--  
AS I SURELY WILL BE-- YOUR  
WIFE AND SON WILL DIE...  
BLASTED IN THE SAME INSTANT  
I DESTROY YOU !**"



**GO, AQUAMAN--  
AND SPEND THE  
LAST 60 MINUTES  
OF YOUR LIFE--  
IN FEAR!**

**ON WHICH NOTE, READER, WE TOO SHALL EXIT--**

-- AND TURN OUR  
ATTENTION TO A  
MODEST FARMHOUSE,  
SEVERAL LEAGUES  
FROM THE DOMED CITY,  
AND UNSHAKEN BY  
THE UPHEAVALS THAT  
HAVE ROCKED  
ATLANTIS.

**BUT EVERY HOME IS A CASTLE,  
AND EVERY MAN A KING WITHIN  
HIS CASTLE-- EACH WITH THEIR  
OWN UPHEAVALS... AND WHO  
ARE WE TO SAY WHICH IS THE  
GREATER ?**

**NO, WOMAN,  
I WILL NOT STAY  
IN MY PLACE !**

**I'VE WAITED  
TEN YEARS FOR  
THIS-- FOR NEWS  
OF HIM--**

-- AND NOW YOU  
TELL ME THAT I  
SHOULD STAY IN MY  
PLACE, AND NOT TAKE  
ADVANTAGE OF WHAT  
FATE HAS THRUST  
BEFORE US ?

**BUT, MAMAN, WE  
HAD GIVEN HIM UP  
FOR DEAD. LET IT  
BE !**

**NO! HE  
IS FLESH  
OF MY  
FLESH!**

**I WILL  
HAVE MY  
SON  
BACK!**

MORE ON THAT *NEXT* ISSUE, READER, BUT NOW LET'S TURN FROM A FATHER SEEKING HIS SON, TO A SON SEEKING HIS FATHER...

WHERE DADDY GO?

I DON'T KNOW, CHILD-- HE JUST WENT AWAY, AND THAT SHARK CREATURE FOLLOWED HIM--

--AFTER USING HIS TELEPATHIC POWER TO SET UP A *BARRIER* FORCING EVERYONE IN THE PALACE TO STAY *INSIDE* ITS WALLS!

NOT ONLY ARE *WE* UNABLE TO HELP YOUR FATHER -- BUT AQUALAD AND TULA ARE *HELPLESS* AS WELL... HE'S ON HIS OWN... AGAINST THE EVILEST MONSTER I'VE EVER SEEN--

--A CREATURE THAT *KILLS* FOR *SPORT*!

"HE DIDN'T EVEN GIVE AQUAMAN A REAL HEAD START... ONLY *SECONDS* AS A LEAD..."

SHARK CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND... THIS CORRIDOR IS ONE OF ONLY THREE THAT LEAD AWAY FROM THE PALACE TO THE LOWER LEVELS...

GOT TO REACH ONE OF THE GATES... GET OUT OF THE DOME...

GOT TO GET AWAY... ONLY CHANCE IS *OUTSIDE* THE CITY!

WITNESS THE ACTIONS OF A MAN WHOSE WORLD MAY END IN THE NEXT HOUR-- HE MOVES *QUICKLY*, TRYING TO FILL THAT TIME WITH DEEDS OF GREAT MEANING AND WORTH... ACTIONS THAT HE HOPES WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF FATE...

BUT HE ALSO MOVES *NERVOUSLY*, FEARING THE DEATH WHICH MAY BE APPROACHING FASTER THAN HE CAN RUN.

AND DESPERATELY  
SEEKS ANY POSSIBLE  
EXIT FROM HIS  
PERIL...

**KZAAP**



...FOR A MAN UNDER SENTENCE  
OF DEATH...



...HAS LITTLE TO FEAR...



...EXCEPT FEAR ITSELF.



WITNESS  
THE THOUGHTS OF  
A MAN WHOSE  
WORLD MAY END  
IN THE NEXT  
MINUTE--THEY  
ARE PLAINLY  
VISIBLE ON  
HIS FACE...

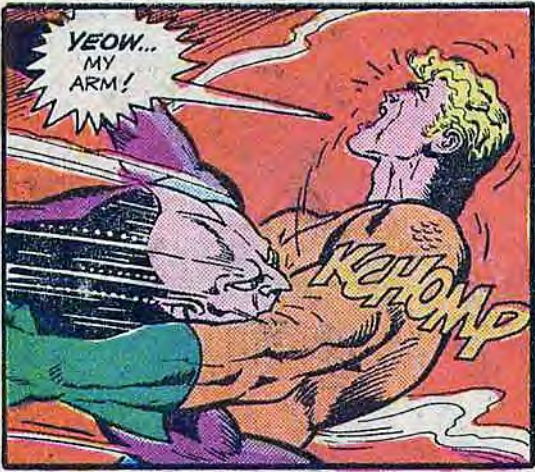


HE HAS CHOSEN NOT TO GIVE IN  
TO FEAR, TO DEATH, AND TO  
THE GRIM MESSENGER WHO  
BRINGS BOTH IN HIS WAKE...

HIS SPECIAL POWERS  
ARE USELESS... HIS  
TELEPATHY DWARFED  
BY THAT OF THE CREATURE  
HE FACES, HIS SUPERB  
SWIMMING ABILITY  
MATCHED FOR THE  
FIRST TIME...



ALL HE HAS LEFT IS HIS COURAGE...



YEOW... MY ARM!

**KRATOMP**



BLEEDING... AND IT FEELS LIKE HE CUT RIGHT THROUGH TO THE BONE! HE'S A BLASTED SHARK...



HMM... IF HE'S STILL GOT SHARK-LIKE QUALITIES, THEN THE TRAIL OF BLOOD WILL DRIVE HIM CRAZY...

AND MAYBE THAT BLOODLUST WILL BE ENOUGH TO TIP THE BALANCE OF THIS FIGHT MY WAY!



A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EXPLOSION EVOLVED HIM INTO THIS SUPER-HUMAN FORM\*... MAYBE RADIATION IS THE WAY TO STOP HIM!

NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP NEARBY--IF I CAN LURE HIM THERE, MAYBE THE RADIATION WILL TAKE HIM OUT--

-- IF IT DOESN'T KILL ME FIRST!

\*AS IN GREEN LANTERN #24--JOE

**BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER--** PERHAPS THAT ARGUMENT NO LONGER HOLDS FAMILIES TOGETHER AS WELL AS ONCE IT DID, BUT ITS SCIENTIFIC TRUTH STILL SERVES ONE PURPOSE... TO BRING A SHARK TOGETHER WITH ITS PREY...



GONE! BUT THEN I WOULD NOT WANT THE CAPTURE TO BE TOO SIMPLE... THE THRILL IS IN THE HUNT...

EVEN THOUGH VICTORY CAN ONLY COME WITH THE KILL!



SOME PLACES HAVE AN AIR OF FINALITY ABOUT THEM, A SENSE THAT THEY MARK THE END OF THE ROAD...

...FOR AQUAMAN, THAT SENSE IS MORE REAL THAN HE CAN KNOW...

NEVER THOUGHT I'D THANK THE SURFACE PEOPLE FOR DUMPING THIS STUFF HERE, BUT IT--



DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, AQUAMAN--OR YOUR THANKS!



NEITHER WILL DO YOU ANY GOOD!



TOO SLOW, SHARK--YOU'LL NEVER GET ME THAT WAY!

ARRGH--WHY THIS FOOLISHNESS, AQUAMAN-- YOU ARE FINISHED, YOU KNOW THAT!

YOU CAN'T GET AWAY--



--WHEN YOU STOP CIRCLING, THE WHIRLPOOL STOPS --AND THEN I'LL KNOW WHERE YOU'VE--



--GONE!

YOUR OH SO HUMAN BLOOD BETRAYS YOU ONCE MORE, AQUAMAN-- AS IT BETRAYS ALL YOUR KIND!



BUT THIS TIME, IT BETRAYS YOU FOR THE LAST TIME! FOR NOW, HUNTED ONE... NOW, YOU--



--DIEEEEE!

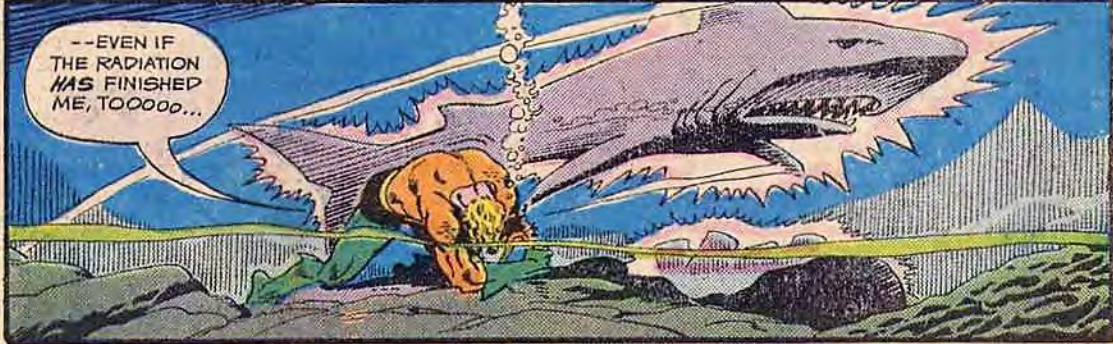


AS SUDDENLY AS IT ERUPTED, THE EXPLOSION IS OVER--THE NUCLEAR WASTES SPREADING ALONG THE CURRENTS AND TIDES...

NO, SHARK, YOU WERE THE ONE BETRAYED... BY YOUR OWN ANIMAL BLOOD LUST THAT INSTINCTIVELY SENT YOU TO THE CANISTER...

NEVER DREAMING THAT I PLACED A DEEDY THERE... HOPING THE ATOMIC WASTES WOULD FINISH YOU-- CHANGE YOU INTO A HELPLESS ORDINARY CREATURE OF THE SEA--





--EVEN IF THE RADIATION HAS FINISHED ME, TOOOOO...

# EPILOGUE

IMPERIAL ATLANTIS, THREE DAYS LATER...

I AM SORRY TO HAVE TO ASSUME THE THRONE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, MY FRIENDS. I SO DEEPLY REGRET--

NO, VULKO-- IT SHOULD BE YOURS. DO NOT REGRET IT. YOU ARE THE MAN WHO SAID YOU WOULD NEVER LEAVE ATLANTIS!

YEAH--AND AQUAMAN WANTED IT THIS WAY!

THE PEOPLE HAVE APPROVED IT AS WELL. BUT I STILL WISH--

STILL WISH WHAT--

-- THAT I WOULDN'T LEARN MY LESSON, VULKO? NO. BEING A SUPER-HERO AND A KING IS TOO MUCH!

SO I'LL TAKE THE THRILLS, AND YOU TAKE THRONE--AND THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS WILL BE THE BETTER FOR IT!

YES, YOUR MAJESTY, BUT--

NO, NOT "YOUR MAJESTY"--

--NOT EVER AGAIN!

**NEXT ISSUE:**  
★ AQUAMAN RETURNS TO BEING A SUPER-HERO--BATTLING A DYNAMIC NEW VILLAIN IN--  
"THE MENACE OF THE MARINE MARAUDER!"  
★ AND, NEED WE SAY THAT YOU'LL SEE MORE OF McCANN AND HIS MYSTERIOUS MISSION!  
PLUS: THE LONG-AWAITED RETURN OF A JUSTICE LEAGUE GREAT--THE MANHUNTER FROM MARS!  
★ FIGHTING HIS OWN PEOPLE TO FIND AN EARTH-LING KILLER IN THE STARS!  
ALL IN #449--ON SALE OCTOBER 21ST!