

DESTINY:

MEN HAVE CALLED MY NAME FOR COUNTLESS EONS. THEY HAVE SEARCHED THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD FOR ME. THEY HAVE DEFIED THE FORCES OF THE UNKNOWN, THE REALMS OF THE DARK MYSTICS IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS THEY CANNOT POSSESS.

MY NAME IS *DESTINY*, AND IT IS MY FATE TO WALK ALONE THROUGHOUT ETERNITY AND OBSERVE THE FOLLIES AND MYSTERIES OF MANKIND, AND TO NOTE THEM ALL IN THE COSMIC LOG.



**HOROSCOPE  
PHENOMENON OR  
WITCH  
QUEEN  
OF  
ANCIENT  
SUMERIA?**

**PISCES** -- THE FISH WAS THE BIRTH SYMBOL OF **KENNETH LANDRY**, A DEEP BELIEVER IN THE INFLUENCE OF THE **STARS** AND **PLANETS** ON THE **LIFE PATTERNS** OF INDIVIDUALS! OF FOUR SPECTACULAR CASES, HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE **TIME-LOST** VISION WAS THE **FIRST** TO GAIN ATTENTION!!!

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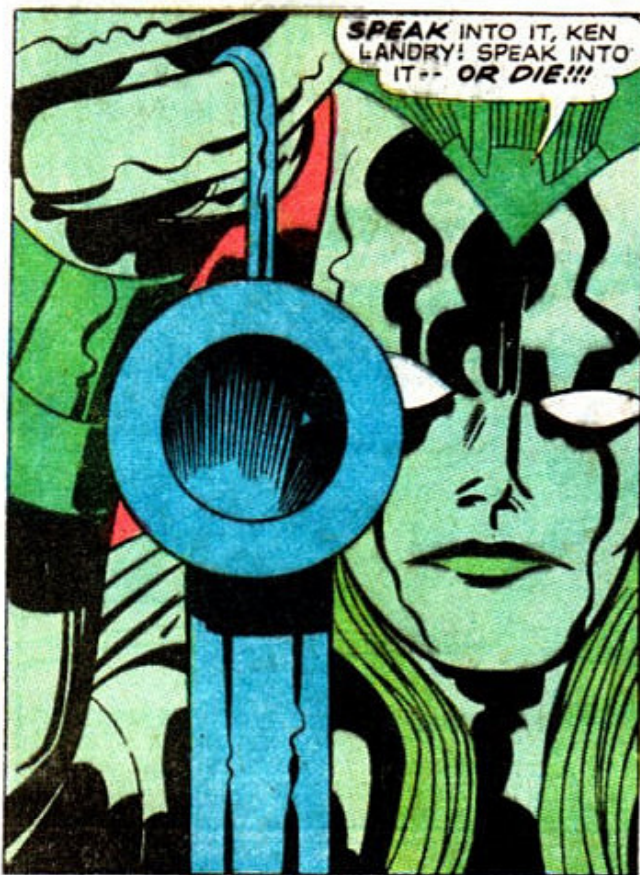
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**K**EN LANDRY SAW THE STARK, **REALISTIC** VISION IN A DREAM! SHE WAS LIKE SOME **SENSUOUS** GODDESS RISEN FROM THE SEA!!!



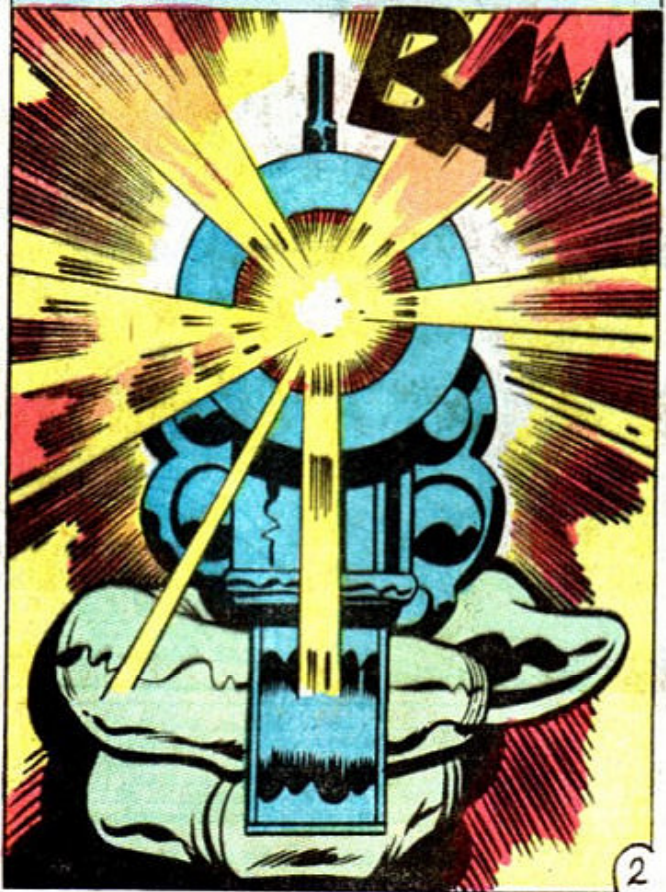
**S**HE SEEMED TO BE DRAWING A FISH-LINE FROM THE WATERS, AT FIRST!! BUT THE OBJECT AT THE END OF IT PROVED TO BE A TELEPHONE!!  
IT WAS TYPICAL "DREAM-ACTION" -- OPEN TO ANALYSIS!!



**S**PEAK INTO IT, KEN LANDRY! SPEAK INTO IT-- OR DIE!!!

**T**HERE WAS SOMETHING **SINISTER** AND FOREBODING IN HER SPEECH-- AND THE **CLARITY** OF IT CAUSED A FEELING OF **FEAR** AS SHE LOOMED CLOSE-- CLOSER--!!

**W**ITHOUT WARNING THE PHONE BECAME THE DARK, GAPING BARREL OF A GUN AND EXPLODED WITH A **TERRIFYING** FLASH AND ROAR!! KEN WOKE WITH A START!! HE COULD **STILL** HEAR THE ECHOES OF THAT DEADLY SOUND!!



CONSIDERING KEN'S PROFESSION, HE INTERPRETED HIS DREAM AS A SYMPTOM OF THE ACCUMULATED TENSIONS AND HAZARDS OF HIS JOB!! HE WAS A DETECTIVE ON THE POLICE FORCE OF A MID-WESTERN CITY AND PUT DUTY BEFORE DANGER SIGNS THAT CROPPED UP IN HIS HOROSCOPE DURING ANY GIVEN MONTH!! BUT, FOLLOWING HIS DREAM, CAME THE INCIDENT OF THE MENTALLY DERANGED MAN WHO DECIDED ON A SHOOT-OUT WITH THE POLICE!!

GO AWAY! YOUR UNIFORMS DON'T FOOL ME!! YOU'RE NOT THE POLICE!! YOU'RE THE ENEMY!!

TAKE COVER!! HE'S GOT A MACHINE-GUN!!

OW! MY ARM!

Pok! Pok!

Pok! Pok! Pok!

HIS NEIGHBORS SAY HE'S BEEN HOARDING WAR SOUVENIRS!! --AND PLENTY OF AMMO, TOO!!

IT WON'T BE EASY TO TAKE HIM, KEN!

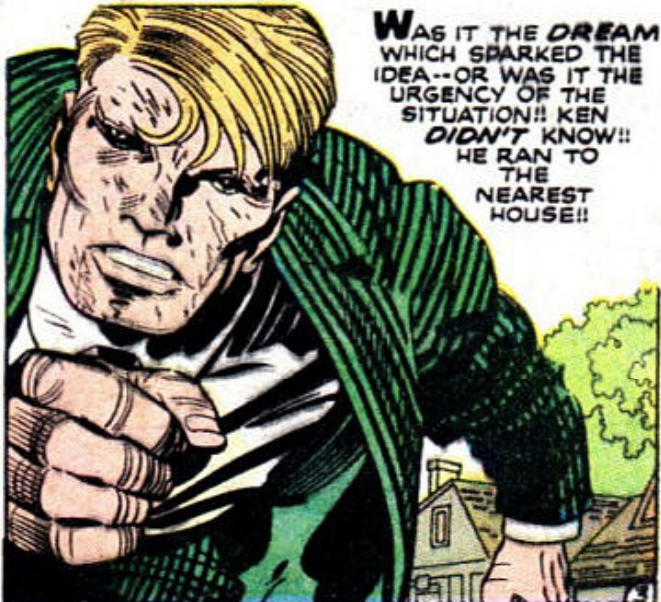
WELL, SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET SERIOUSLY HURT-- OR KILLED, IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING REAL QUICK!

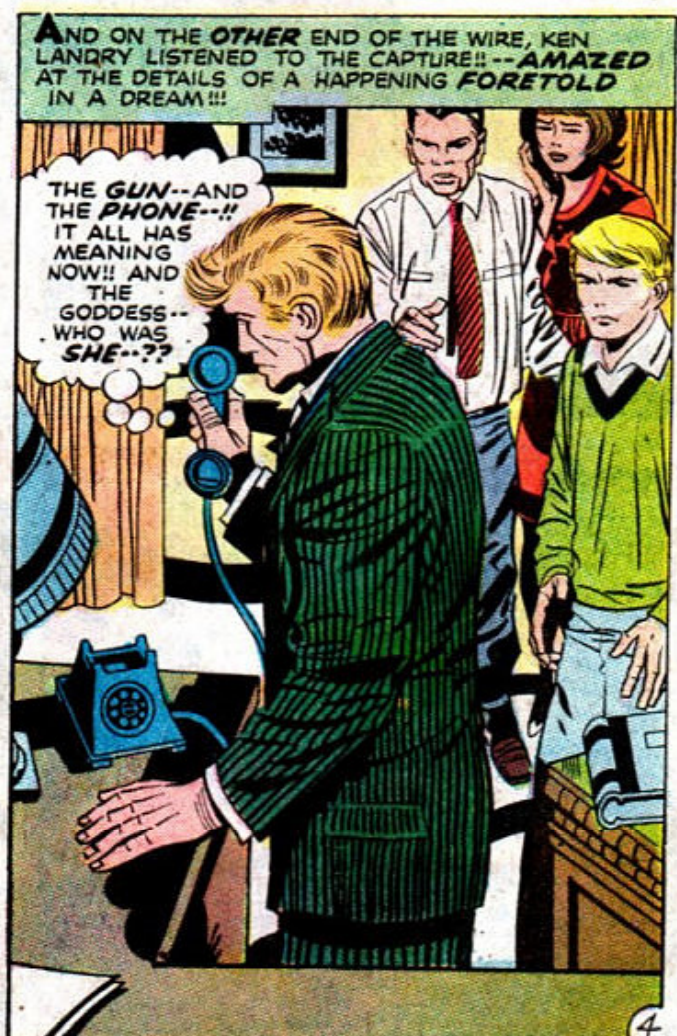
LOOK OUT, KEN!!

Pow! Pow! Pow!

WHEN A STRAY SHOT STRUCK THE FUEL TANK OF A NEARBY POLICE CAR, KEN CAME AS CLOSE AS HE CARED--TO THE GRIM REAPER!!

WAS IT THE DREAM WHICH SPARKED THE IDEA--OR WAS IT THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION!! KEN DIDN'T KNOW!! HE RAN TO THE NEAREST HOUSE!!

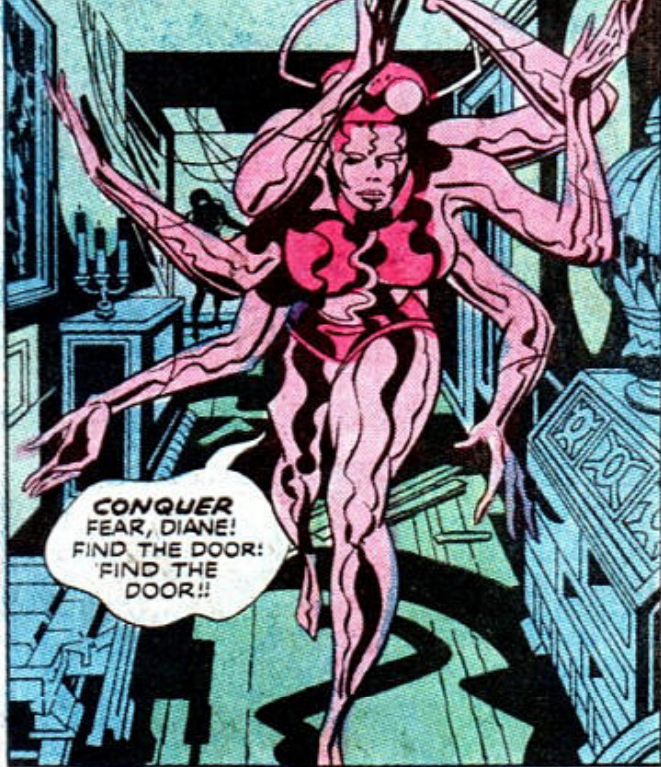




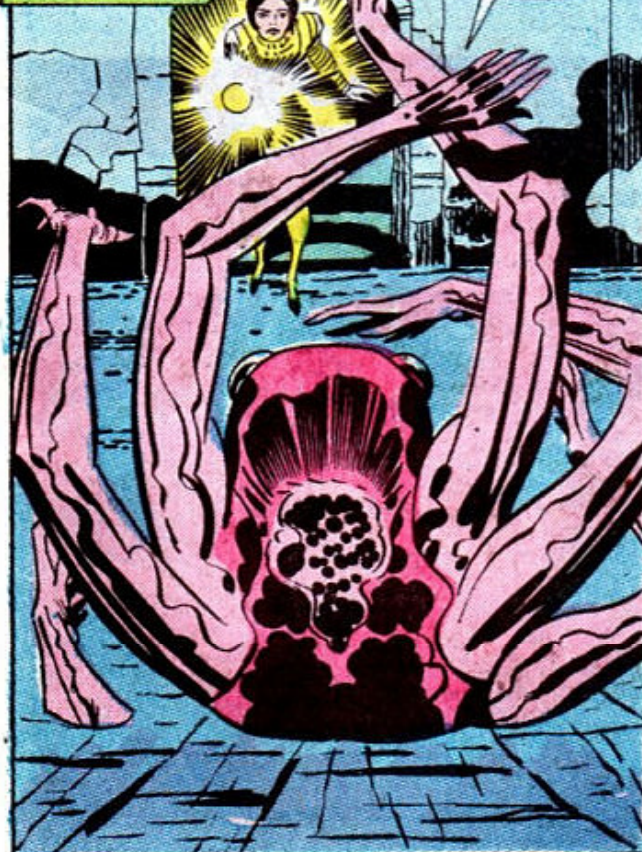
ANOTHER VISUAL ENCOUNTER WITH WHAT I NOW CONSIDER THE SAME APPARITION, WAS THE CLAIM OF **DIANE PARKER**— AGE 22—AND BORN UNDER THE SIGN OF **CANCER, THE CRAB!**



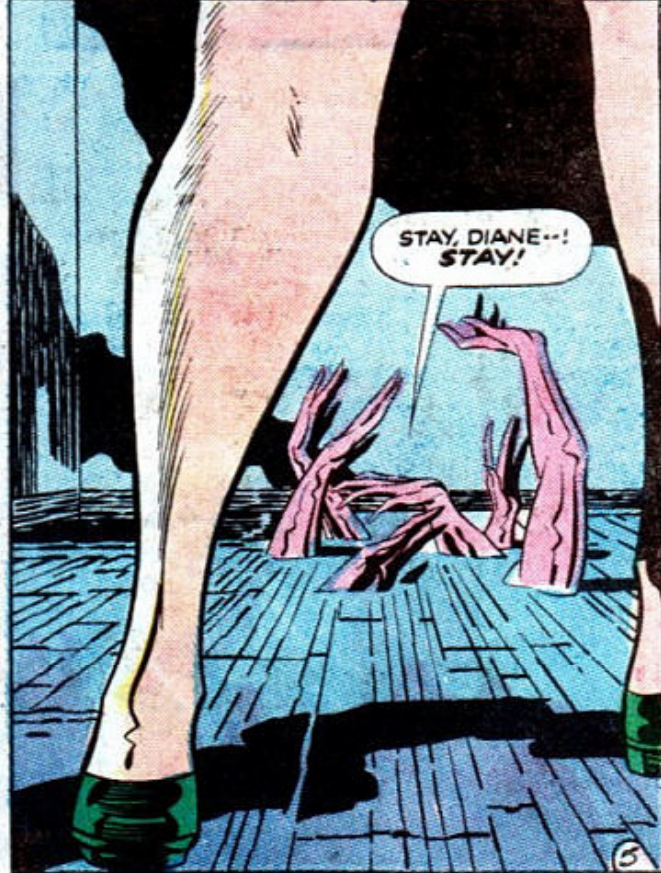
SEPARATED FROM HER HUSBAND, **MARK**, WHILE EXPLORING THE CRUMBLING OLD HOUSE WILLED TO HER BY A CLOSE RELATIVE, **DIANE PURSUED** THE VISION DOWN **DARK PASSAGES** WHICH HONEYCOMBED THE **OLD PLACE!**



ONE PASSAGE LED TO A **SMALL, EMPTY ROOM!** HERE, THE **STRANGE, DREAM-LIKE** FIGURE SANK SLOWLY OUT OF SIGHT!



WAS IT ALL THE INTER-PLAY OF **SHADOW** AND **HOUSE ECHOES** CAUSED BY THE STRUCTURAL SAGGING OF ANCIENT BEAMS?? WAS IT **DIANE'S** ROMANTIC INVOLVEMENT WITH THE **ASTROLOGICAL ARTS?** **DIANE**, IN THE DIM LIGHT OF THAT LITTLE ROOM, FELT DESTINY IN THE MAKING!!!





WELL! I THOUGHT THIS OLD HOUSE HAD SWALLOWED YOU!! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME CALLING YOU, DIANE?

MARK! LISTEN TO ME! DO YOU REMEMBER THAT LAST NOTE WHICH UNCLE HAROLD LEFT-- HINTING AT SOMETHING VALUABLE HIDDEN HERE--?



IN THIS WHITE ELEPHANT OF A HOUSE? WHY, WE'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM TO WRECK IT!!

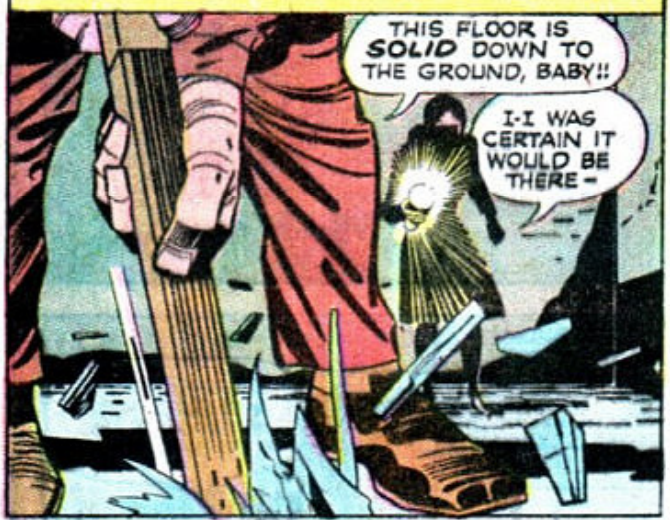
I-I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, HONEY, BUT I JUST KNOW IT'S HERE-- HIDDEN IN THIS EMPTY ROOM!!



I'VE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES HOW INSECURE UNCLE HAROLD FELT ABOUT THE FEW ARTIFACTS HE COLLECTED IN HIS TRAVELS---! HE MAY HAVE--

BUT WE'VE EXAMINED THAT MESS OF TOURIST BRIC-A-BRAC!! IT'S INTERESTING, BUT HARDLY WORTH A KING'S RANSOM!!

HOWEVER, ACCEDING TO DIANE'S URGING, MARK FOUND A WORKMAN'S CROWBAR AND HE BEGAN TO *PROD* FOR A SIGN OF THE--UNKNOWN!



THIS FLOOR IS SOLID DOWN TO THE GROUND, BABY!!

I-I WAS CERTAIN IT WOULD BE THERE--



WAS DIANE ACTING ON THE PROMPTINGS OF A WEIRD HALLUCINATION? DESPITE HER MISGIVINGS, SHE ASKED MARK TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH!!!

PLEASE, MARK! DON'T GIVE UP! TRY THE WALLS--!

EITHER YOUR UNCLE HAROLD WAS A NUT-- OR YOU MUST BE HOOKED ON DETECTIVE STORIES! --HEY!!!



I'VE STRUCK A HOLLOW IN THIS WALL!! LOOK!! THIS PLASTER'S CHIPPING AWAY LIKE CARDBOARD!!

MARK!! IT'S A SEALED ALCOVE!! --AND THERE'S SOMETHING IN THERE!!

THEN A HORRIBLE, SNARLING FACE LEAPED AT THEM FROM THE DARKNESS!-- AND CHANGED THEIR LIVES!!



THE ANTIQUE DEALER CALLED IT THE "MANDARIN DOG!"--UNCLE HAROLD HAD BOUGHT AN ITEM ABROAD WHICH INDEED OVERSHADOWED HIS OTHER PURCHASES!!



YES, I'LL BUY IT FROM YOU! THIS IS AN AMAZING FIND!!

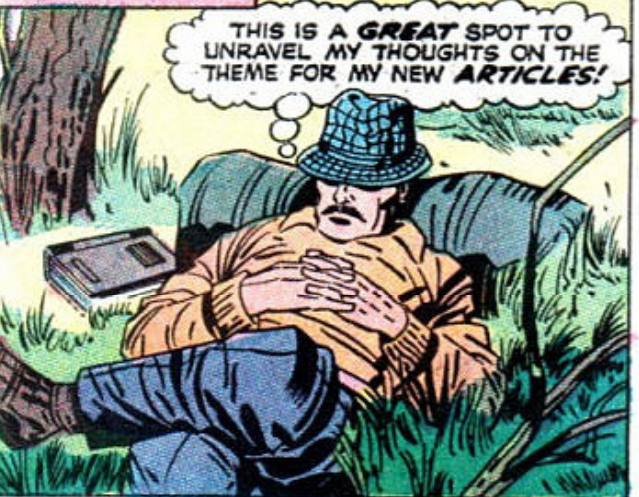


WHAT'S MORE, THE AMOUNT I MENTIONED SHOULD OUTBID MY COMPETITORS!! THIS HAS BEEN A MONTH OF GOOD FORTUNE FOR YOU YOUNG MARRIEDS!!

WELL, AT LEAST I'M GOING TO THINK TWICE ABOUT TEASING MY WIFE ABOUT HER HOROSCOPE DOODLINGS!!

IT'S MORE THAN THAT, MARK!--TO ME!

APPARENTLY THE VISION DIDN'T STOP THERE WITH HER BIZARRE APPEARANCES!! SHE MADE CONTACT WITH ROBERT BALDWIN, A WRITER ON A WEEK-END VACATION!!



THIS IS A GREAT SPOT TO UNRAVEL MY THOUGHTS ON THE THEME FOR MY NEW ARTICLES!



BALDWIN STUDIED ALL ASPECTS OF CULTURE, INCLUDING ASTROLOGY!! HIS BIRTH SYMBOL WAS **VIRGO!** ---AND AS SHE HAD WITH THE OTHERS, THE VISION WOULD APPEAR IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS ASTROLOGICAL SIGN!!

--WON'T HURT A BIT TO DOZE OFF FOR A FEW MOMENTS---

AS IF IN A DAY-DREAM, HE SAW HER--- SAILING TOWARD HIM FROM THE FAR-REACHING HORIZON OF SOME UN-NAMEABLE WORLD!!!



CONTINUED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.



THE SOUND AND FURY OF BALDWIN'S DREAM PERSISTED UNTIL HE WAS JOLTED FROM HIS NAP AND FOUND OUT WHY!!



OUT OF A NIGHTMARE AND INTO AN ELECTRICAL STORM!! I HOPE THE REST OF MY DREAM-GODDESS' SCRIPT DOESN'T COME TRUE!!



BUT IT DID! THE FURIOUS DOWNPOUR LOOSENED SOME ROCK ON A HILLY RISE AND SENT THEM HURTLING DOWN TOWARD BALDWIN!!

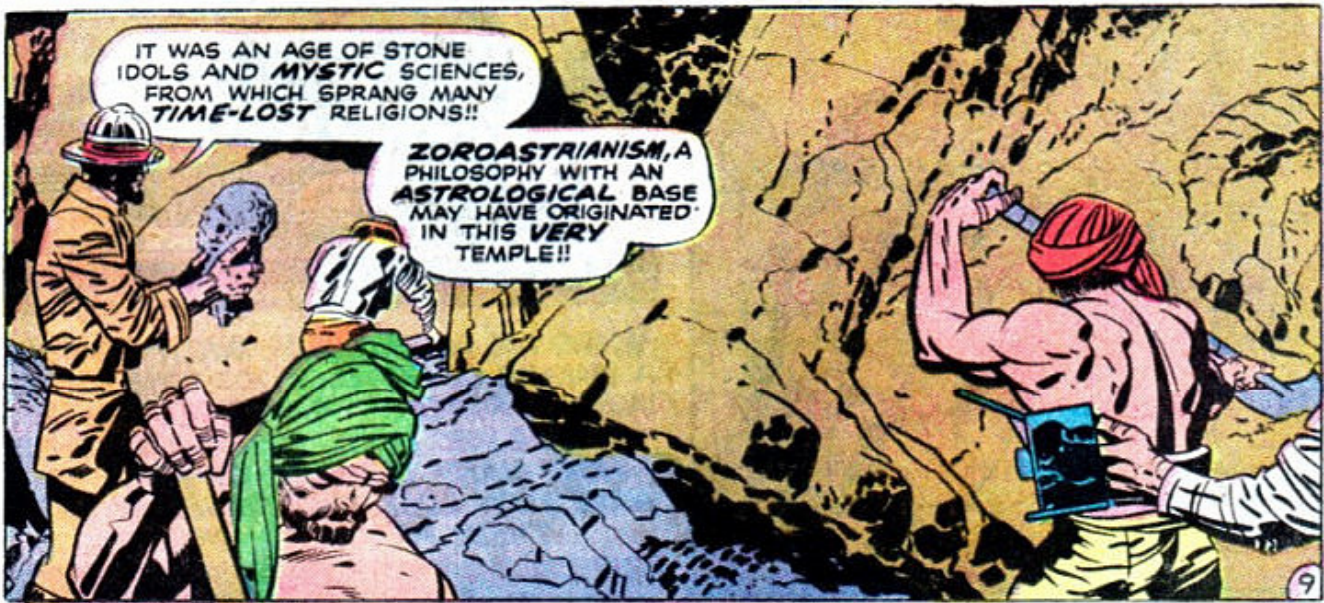


FORTUNATELY, BALDWIN CAME THROUGH IT WITH A FEW SCRATCHES! LIKE THE OTHERS, HE TOLD ME HIS STORY-- BECAUSE I SOUGHT HIM OUT! MY REASONS STEMMED FROM AN EXPERIENCE IN ARCHAEOLOGY!!



YEARS EARLIER I'D FOUND MYSELF SPENDING THE SUMMER WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WHO'D UNEARTHED THE SITE OF AN ANCIENT TEMPLE IN THE AREA ONCE KNOWN AS SUMERIA IN ASIA MINOR!

HERE, MAN BUILT THE EARLIEST KNOWN CIVILIZATION! -- AND ON THESE TABLETS LEFT RECORDS OF IT!!



IT WAS AN AGE OF STONE IDOLS AND MYSTIC SCIENCES, FROM WHICH SPANG MANY TIME-LOST RELIGIONS!!

ZOROASTRIANISM, A PHILOSOPHY WITH AN ASTROLOGICAL BASE MAY HAVE ORIGINATED IN THIS VERY TEMPLE!!

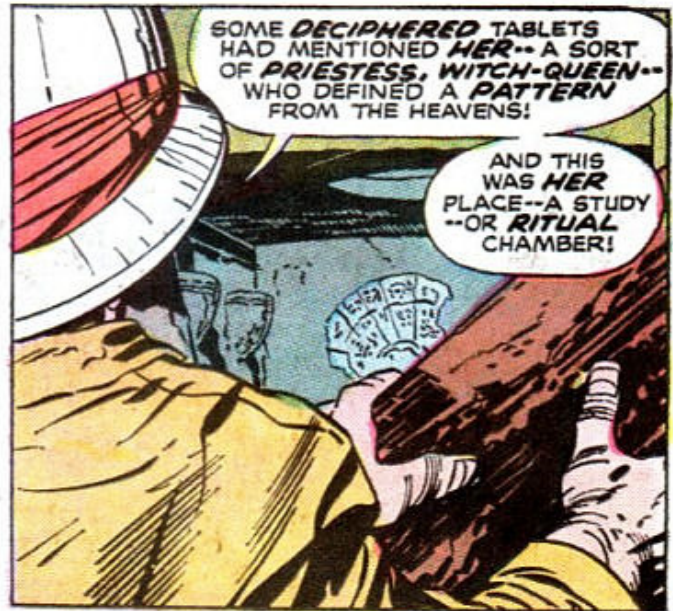
HERE IT WAS I FIRST HEARD HER VOICE--- DRAWING ME DOWN PRIMITIVE PASSAGES!--OR WAS IT THE DESERT WIND--BLOWING IN FROM THE OUTSIDE--!?



HOWEVER, I SOON FOUND MYSELF ALONE-- ISOLATED IN THE SILENT PAST-- BESIDE A BLOCKED CHAMBER---

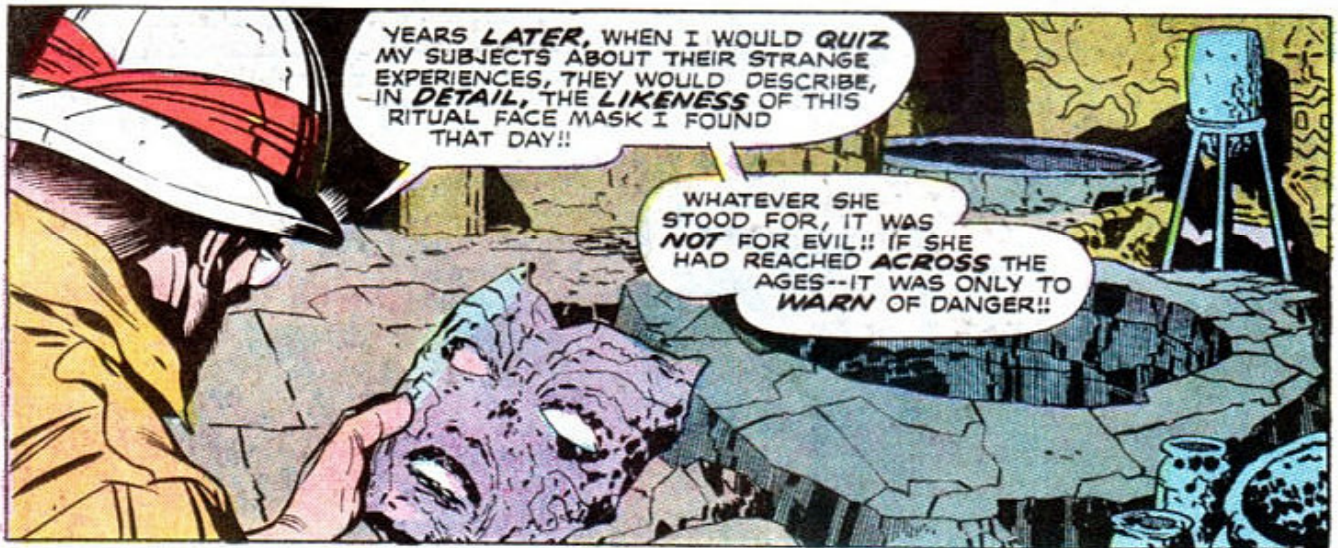
SOME DECIPHERED TABLETS HAD MENTIONED HER-- A SORT OF PRIESTESS, WITCH-QUEEN-- WHO DEFINED A PATTERN FROM THE HEAVENS!

AND THIS WAS HER PLACE--A STUDY--OR RITUAL CHAMBER!



YEARS LATER, WHEN I WOULD QUIZ MY SUBJECTS ABOUT THEIR STRANGE EXPERIENCES, THEY WOULD DESCRIBE, IN DETAIL, THE LIKENESS OF THIS RITUAL FACE MASK I FOUND THAT DAY!!

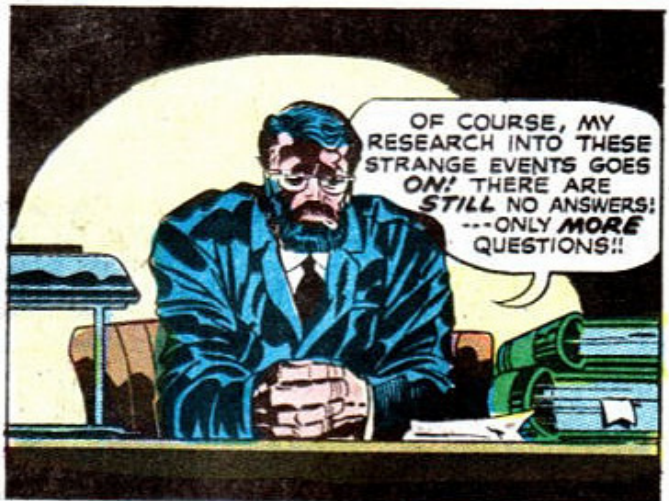
WHATEVER SHE STOOD FOR, IT WAS NOT FOR EVIL!! IF SHE HAD REACHED ACROSS THE AGES--IT WAS ONLY TO WARN OF DANGER!!



THE ONLY OTHER ARTIFACT I FOUND OF NOTE WAS A STONE SHARD, UPON WHICH ONLY ONE CARVED FORM WAS IDENTIFIABLE!-- MY OWN BIRTH SYMBOL-- LEO, THE LION!!



OF COURSE, MY RESEARCH INTO THESE STRANGE EVENTS GOES ON! THERE ARE STILL NO ANSWERS!-- ONLY MORE QUESTIONS!!



WERE THE ASTROLOGICAL BIRTH SYMBOLS A MANNER OF CONTACT FOR SOME ACTIVE, UNKNOWN FORCE?? THE MILLENNIUMS SEEM TO HAVE BURIED UNCOUNTED CIVILIZATIONS!!! HOW MANY UNHEARD-OF POWERS HAVE BEEN LOST AND BURIED WITH THEIR PRACTITIONERS!!!??