

Prince Namor, THE SUB-MARINER!™

CONFRONTATION!

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TELL
HULK
AGAIN--
WHY WE'RE
ALL THREE
HERE!


THINK,
HULK! THE
EARTH IS
YOUR HOME--
AS WELL
AS OURS!

AND
ONLY TOGETHER
MAY WE AMASS
THE POWER
NECESSARY TO
SAVE IT!

YES-- TO
SAVE IT
FROM
ITSELF--
FROM THE
FECKLESS
FOLLY OF
THE HUMANS
WHO INHABIT
IT!

TITANS THREE!

PRINCE NAMOR-- THE BLOCK-BUSTING HULK-- THE MYSTERIOUS SKY-RIDER KNOWN ONLY AS THE SILVER SURFER! PERHAPS NEVER BEFORE HAS HERODOM BEHELD A GROUPING SO UNLIKELY-- YET SO UNSPEAKABLY POWERFUL! YET, THEIR MIND-SHATTERING MISSION-- BUT WE'LL LET THAT UNRAVEL ITSELF AS OUR TALE DARTS BREATHLESSLY ALONG--!



HUH?
HOW COME
SURFBOARD'S
GOING **DOWN**
NOW-- DOWN
TOWARD
THE
GROUND?

DO YOU
COMPREHEND
NOTHING,
GARGOYLE?

BELOW IS OUR
DESTINATION--
THE CARIBBEAN
ISLAND WHERE
MEN HAVE
BUILT A
DEVICE WHICH
THREATENS
ALL LIFE
ON EARTH!

FEAR NOT, MY
FRIENDS, THOUGH MY
MYSTIC BOARD
SCORCHES THE
VERY AIR
ABOUT US!

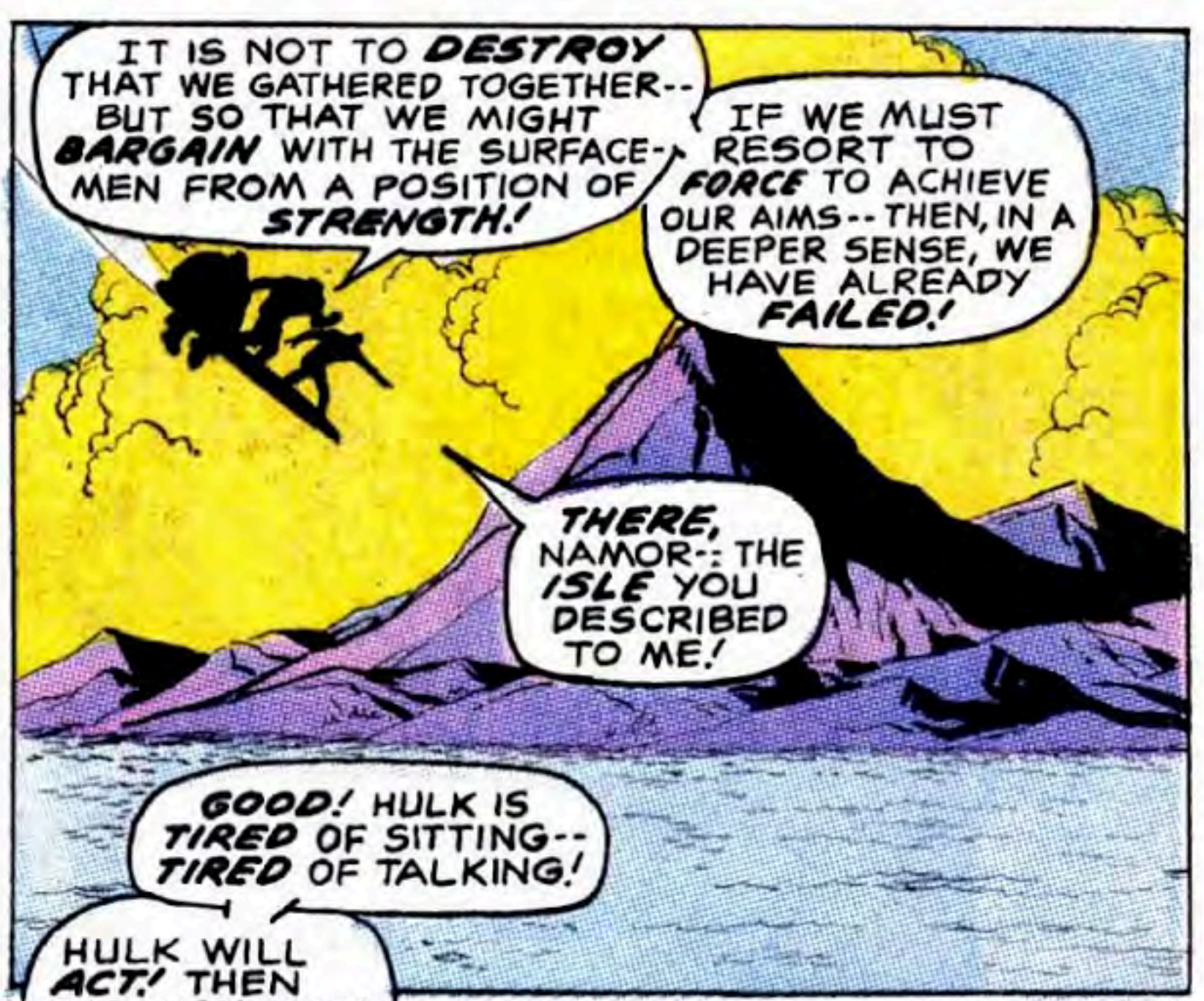
ITS
INVISIBLE
AURA WILL
PROTECT
YOU
BOTH!



PROTECT? HULK DOESN'T
NEED PROTECTING--
FROM **ANYTHING!**

LET THE **HUMANS** FEAR--
'CAUSE HULK WILL **SMASH**
THEM-- THEM, AND THE
THING THEY **BUILD!**

NO,
HULK--
NOT
THAT
WAY!



IT IS NOT TO **DESTROY**
THAT WE GATHERED TOGETHER--
BUT SO THAT WE MIGHT
BARGAIN WITH THE SURFACE-
MEN FROM A POSITION OF
STRENGTH!

IF WE MUST
RESORT TO
FORCE TO ACHIEVE
OUR AIMS-- THEN, IN A
DEEPER SENSE, WE
HAVE ALREADY
FAILED!


THERE,
NAMOR-- THE
ISLE YOU
DESCRIBED
TO ME!

GOOD! HULK IS
TIRED OF SITTING--
TIRED OF TALKING!

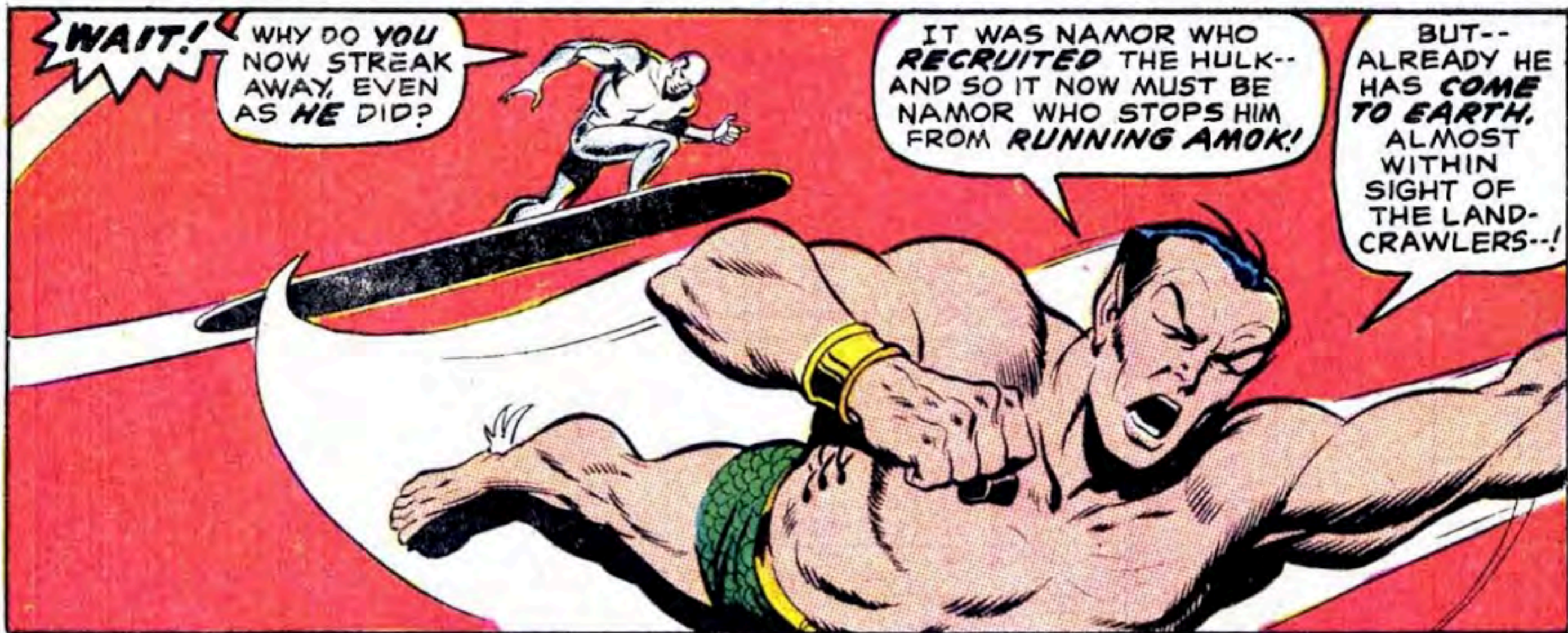
HULK WILL
ACT! THEN
THE **FISH-MAN**
CAN TALK-- TO
THE HUMANS
WHO STILL
CAN TALK!

YOU FOOL-- **COME**
BACK!

THERE
IS NO
REASONING
WITH HIM!



PERHAPS
ONE OF MY
COSMIC
BOLTS
WOULD--



WAIT! WHY DO YOU NOW STREAK AWAY, EVEN AS HE DID?

IT WAS NAMOR WHO RECRUITED THE HULK-- AND SO IT NOW MUST BE NAMOR WHO STOPS HIM FROM RUNNING AMOK!

BUT-- ALREADY HE HAS COME TO EARTH, ALMOST WITHIN SIGHT OF THE LAND-CRAWLERS--!



FIVE MORE MINUTES-- AND OUR NUCLEAR WEATHER-CONTROL STATION WILL BE OPERATIVE!

NOT EVEN A HURRICANE CAN PREVENT OUR TESTING IT NOW!



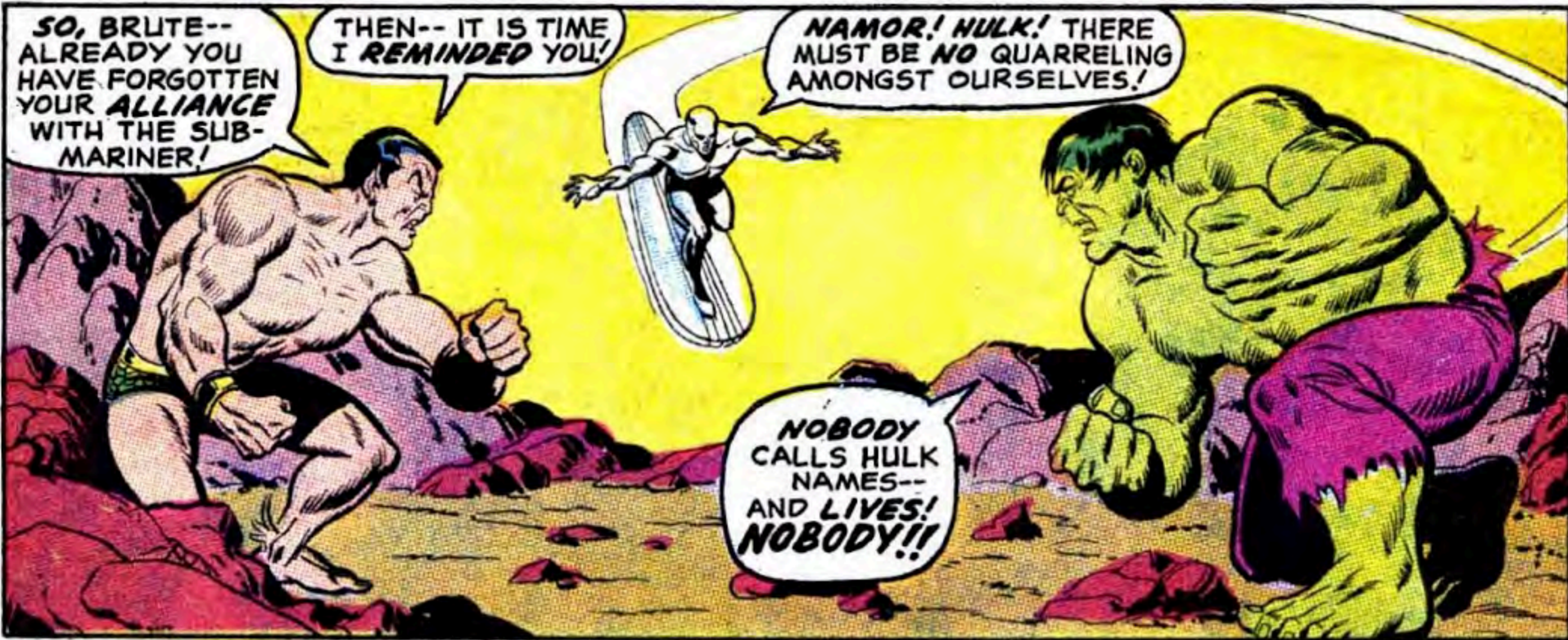
MAYBE A BIG WIND CAN'T STOP YOU--

--BUT THE HULK CAN!!



DO HALF-FORMED WORDS CATCH IN THE THROATS OF THE TERRIFIED HUMANS-- OR ARE THEY MERELY LOST AMID THE THUNDEROUS CHAOS WHICH FOLLOWS ON THE INSTANT, AS--

HUH? WHO--?



SO, BRUTE-- ALREADY YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR ALLIANCE WITH THE SUB-MARINER!

THEN-- IT IS TIME I REMINDED YOU!

NAMOR! HULK! THERE MUST BE NO QUARRRELING AMONGST OURSELVES!

NOBODY CALLS HULK NAMES-- AND LIVES! NOBODY!!



BACK, HULK! THE SURFER SPEAKS TRUTH! THERE IS MORE AT STAKE HERE THAN OUR OWN PRIDE!

WE MUST PRESENT A COMMON FRONT TO THE HUMANS-- FOR THE SAKE OF THE EARTH!

EARTH-- HUMANS-- YES--!



HURRY UP, THEN-- AND GET TALKING OVER WITH!

AS SOON AS THE TALKING STOPS, HULK WILL GO-- BE ON HIS OWN AGAIN!



ALL RIGHT, YOU THREE! YOU'RE TRESPASSING ON UNITED NATIONS TERRITORY!

COLONEL WILLIS-- YOU KNOW WHO THOSE GUYS ARE? YOU BETTER WATCH IT--!

I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE SECONDS TO EXPLAIN!

MISTER, I GOT MY PURPLE HEART ON HEARTBREAK RIDGE-- AND MY SILVER STAR AT KHESAN!

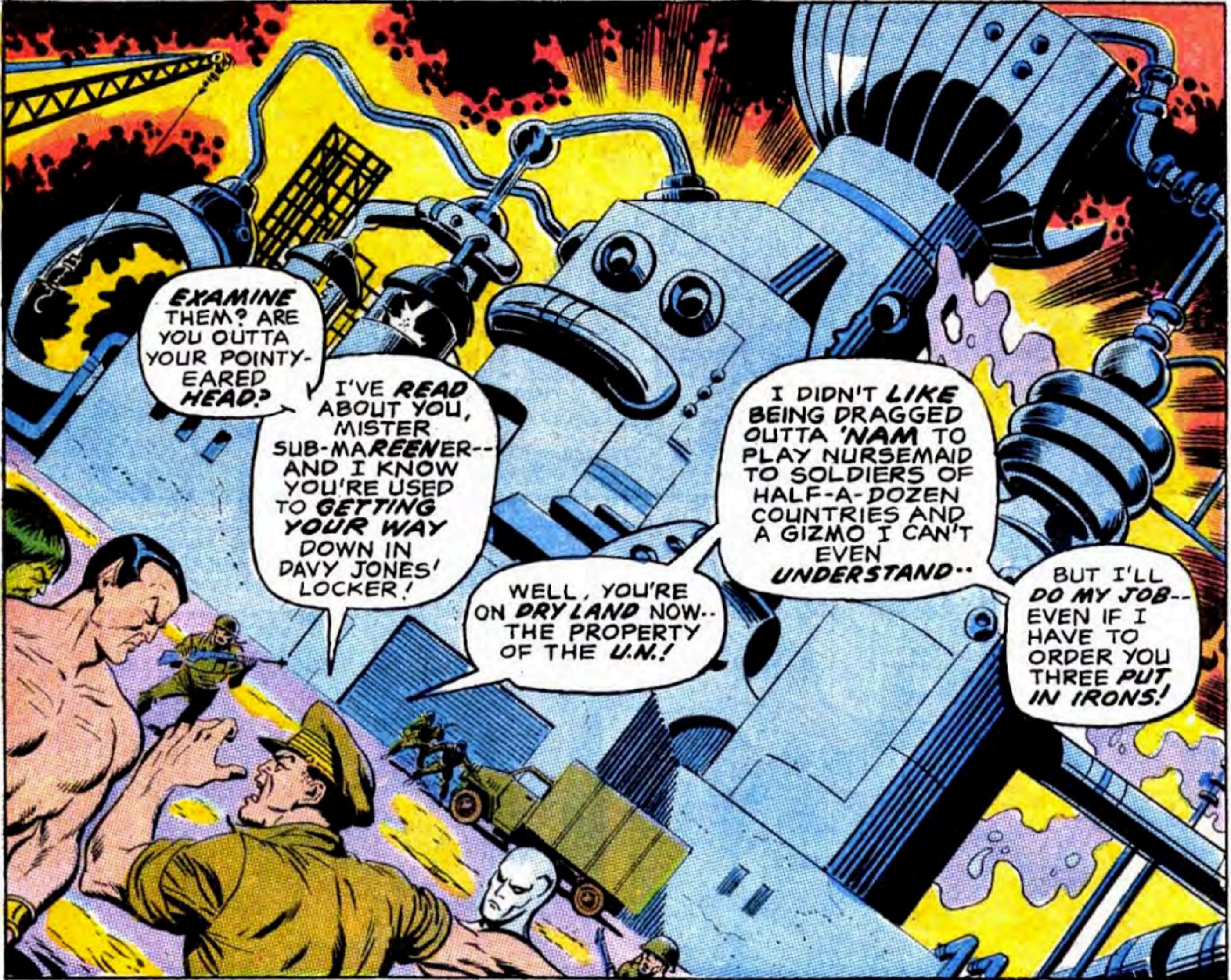


NOW, LIKE I SAID-- WHAT'S GOING ON?

THERE IS NO TIME FOR WORDS! EVEN AS WE SPEAK, YOUR NUCLEAR GENERATORS HUM INTO LIFE!

YOU MUST DEACTIVATE THEM-- UNTIL MY ATLANTEAN SCIENTISTS CAN ARRIVE TO EXAMINE THEM!

LET THEM "WATCH IT"!



EXAMINE THEM? ARE YOU OUTTA YOUR POINTY-EARED HEAD?

I'VE READ ABOUT YOU, MISTER SUB-MAREENER-- AND I KNOW YOU'RE USED TO GETTING YOUR WAY DOWN IN DAVY JONES' LOCKER!

WELL, YOU'RE ON DRY LAND NOW-- THE PROPERTY OF THE U.N.!

I DIDN'T LIKE BEING DRAGGED OUTTA 'NAM TO PLAY NURSEMAID TO SOLDIERS OF HALF-A-DOZEN COUNTRIES AND A GIZMO I CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND--

BUT I'LL DO MY JOB-- EVEN IF I HAVE TO ORDER YOU THREE PUT IN IRONS!



A PRETTY SPEECH, COLONEL-- AND ONE WHICH SHOWS ME THAT ONLY **FORCE** WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT MUST BE DONE!

NO, HULK-- NOT YOU-- NOT YET!

DOES THAT MEAN-- HULK CAN STOMP?

SURFER..?



HE **DISARMED** HALF OF THE GUARDS-- BEFORE THEY COULD BAT AN EYELASH!

FALL BACK TO THE BEACH! WE'VE GOT TO **REGROUP**-- AND GET FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS!

ANY WAY YOU **SLICE** IT, COLONEL, THAT MEANS **RETREAT**-- BUT I'M WITH YOU!



LET'S GET MOVING!
THERE'S AN EMERGENCY
RADIO SHACK ON
THE NEXT ISLAND!

IF IT WAS UP TO ME,
WE'D RUSH THOSE THREE
WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE
GOT LEFT!

BUT MY ORDERS
SAY TO ABANDON
THE ISLAND-- IF
WE'RE FACED WITH
OVERWHELMING
ODDS!

WELL, SIR, IF
THAT THREESOME
DON'T QUALIFY--
THEN NEITHER
WOULD THE WHOLE
CHINESE ARMY!



...YOU HEARD ME,
MR. SECRETARY!
WHAT'S MORE, HE'S
GOT THE HULK AND
THE SILVER SURFER
TO BACK HIM UP!

SURE I'M
SURE! YOU
THINK THEY
HAD TO
GIVE ME A
CALLING
CARD?



THEN-- THIS IS THE
GRAVEST CRISIS IN THE
HISTORY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS!



WHAT? NO,
SOLDIER, I
DON'T WANT
YOUR MEN TO
MOUNT AN
ATTACK!

TO DO SO MIGHT
MEAN WAR--
NOT JUST WITH
THOSE THREE--
BUT WITH
ATLANTIS AS
WELL!



WHAT IS MORE, THE SAFETY
OF THAT WEATHER-CONTROL
STATION MAY WELL BE VITAL
TO THE FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE
PLANET!

A STRAY BULLET
COULD CAUSE
UNTOLD
DAMAGE--AND
DESTROY EQUIP-
MENT THAT WOULD
TAKE A DECADE
TO REPLACE!

THUS, AN ARMED
COUNTER-OFFENSIVE
IS OUT OF THE
QUESTION!



BESIDES, WE
HAVE MADE--
OTHER
ARRANGEMENTS--!



THEN-- IT'S **AGREED!** FIVE OF US DASH OFF TO MAKE THAT CHARITY TV SPOT--

--THE OTHER THREE REMAIN **HERE** ON CALL TO THE **U.N.**, AS WE PROMISED!

YOU PICK THE THREE, CAPTAIN AMERICA-- AS TODAY'S CHAIRMAN!

SO SAY WE ALL!

YEAH-- BUT HOW COME IT SEEMS LIKE OL' WINGHEAD'S CHAIRIN' EVERY OTHER MEETING?

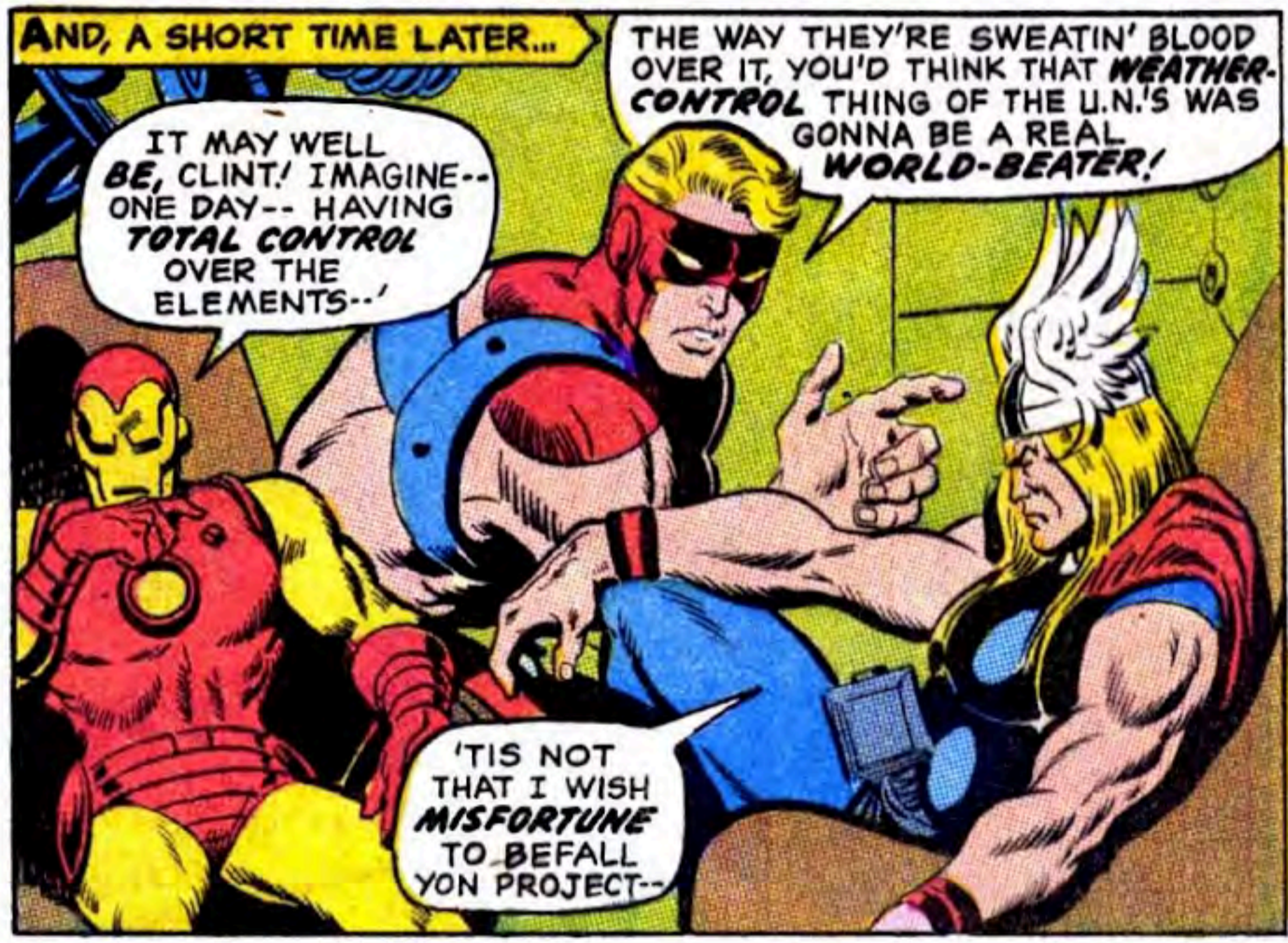
LAST TIME I GOT TO RUN A SESSION, PEOPLE STILL THOUGHT SPIRO AGNEW WAS SOME KIND'A CHEWIN' GUM!

***A WORD TO THE WISE: DON'T WASTE TIME TRYING TO CORRELATE THIS TALE WITH THE CURRENT AVENGERS ISSUE! NO WAY! -- STAN.**



ALL RIGHT, GOLIATH-- I CHOOSE YOU, THOR, AND IRON MAN!

IF THERE IS TROUBLE IN THE CARIBBEAN, I WANT THREE OF THE STRONGEST AVENGERS HANDY!



AND, A SHORT TIME LATER...

IT MAY WELL BE, CLINT! IMAGINE-- ONE DAY-- HAVING TOTAL CONTROL OVER THE ELEMENTS--

THE WAY THEY'RE SWEATIN' BLOOD OVER IT, YOU'D THINK THAT WEATHER-CONTROL THING OF THE U.N.'S WAS GONNA BE A REAL WORLD-BEATER!

'TIS NOT THAT I WISH MISFORTUNE TO BEFALL YON PROJECT--



YET, THIS INACTIVITY DOTH REST HEAVENLY 'PON MY SOUL!

MAKE THAT TWO SOULS! I--

HOLD ON, PAL! THIS MIGHT JUST BE IT!



HELLO-- AVENGERS MANSION HERE! GOLIATH ON THE-- HUH? --NO LIE? --YEAH, OKAY --YOU GOT US, MISTER!

BLONDIE, TODAY'S YOUR LUCKY DAY!

-- WE JUST GOT US A GIG YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE!!

...NAMOR... THE HULK... THE SILVER SURFER!

AN' ONE OF 'EM WAS EVEN AN AVENGER ONCE!

AY... THE BROODING HULK!

THREE OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST-- OFF ON SOME INEXPLICABLE RAMPAGE AGAINST THE STATION!



"YET, FOR ALL THAT HE ADDED TO THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS' RAW POWER-- HE MORE THAN NEGATED BY HIS BESTIAL, NEARLY MINDLESS SAVAGERY!"



"THUS, HE WAS SOON REPLACED-- BY THE VALIANT CAPTAIN AMERICA!"

ALL RIGHT, SO WE KNOW ABOUT THE HULK-- EVEN NAMOR!

NOT TO THOR, MY FRIEND-- THOUGH WE DID CLASH BUT ONCE!

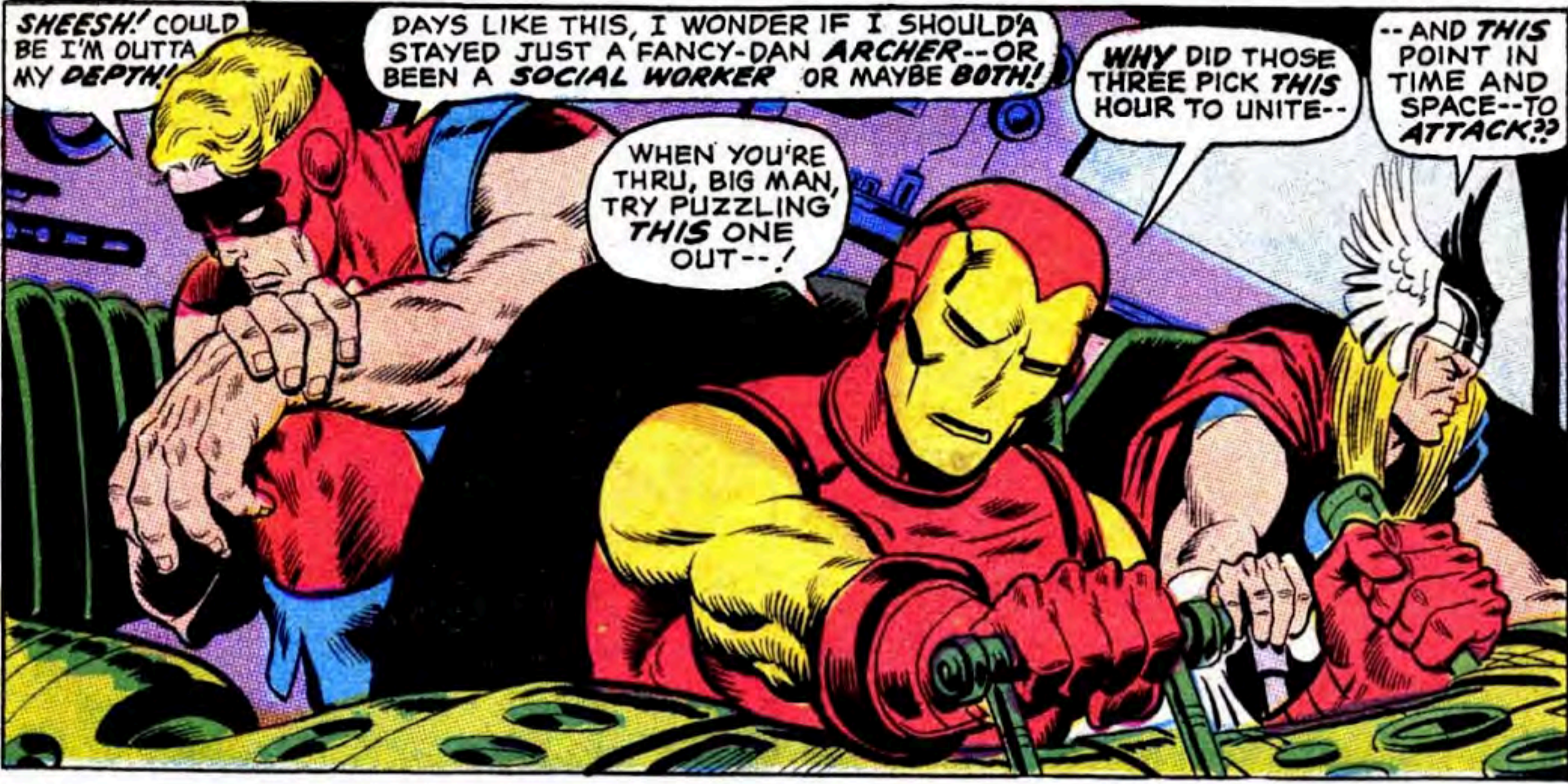
STILL, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE SURFER IS AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY!



"HE IS AN ALIEN... SENTENCED TO WANDER THE BECLOUDED FACE OF THIS PLANET TILL THE END OF TIME!"

"YET, PRISONER THOUGH HE BE, HIS POWERS ARE GREAT... AND HIS DEMEANOR AS NOBLE AS HIS SPACE-SPAWNED SOUL!"





SHEESH! COULD BE I'M OUTTA MY DEPTH!

DAYS LIKE THIS, I WONDER IF I SHOULD'A STAYED JUST A FANCY-DAN ARCHER--OR BEEN A SOCIAL WORKER OR MAYBE BOTH!

WHY DID THOSE THREE PICK THIS HOUR TO UNITE--

--AND THIS POINT IN TIME AND SPACE--TO ATTACK??

WHEN YOU'RE THRU, BIG MAN, TRY PUZZLING THIS ONE OUT--!

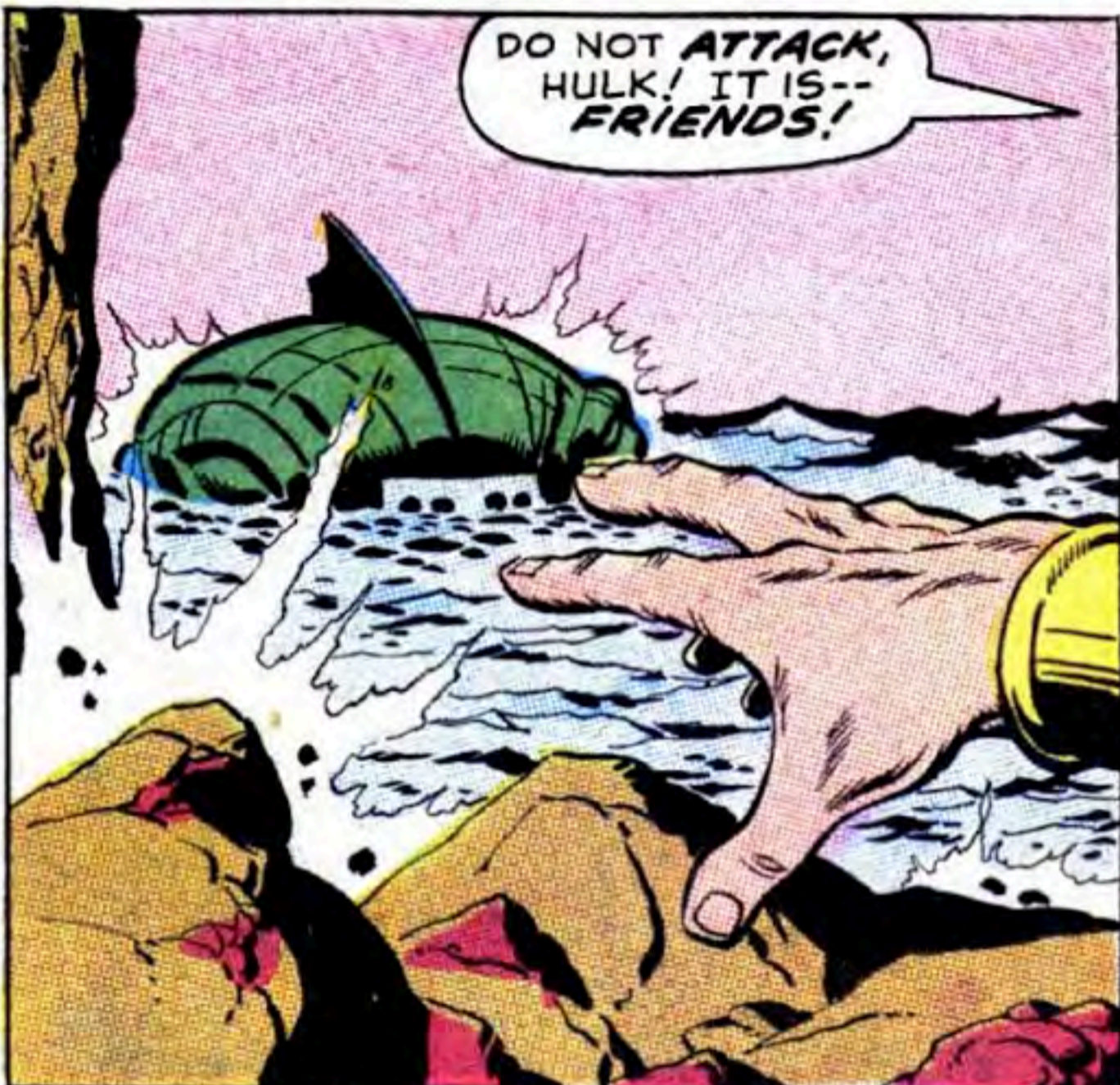


SOMEONE DRAWS NEAR, NAMOR! I CAN SENSE IT!

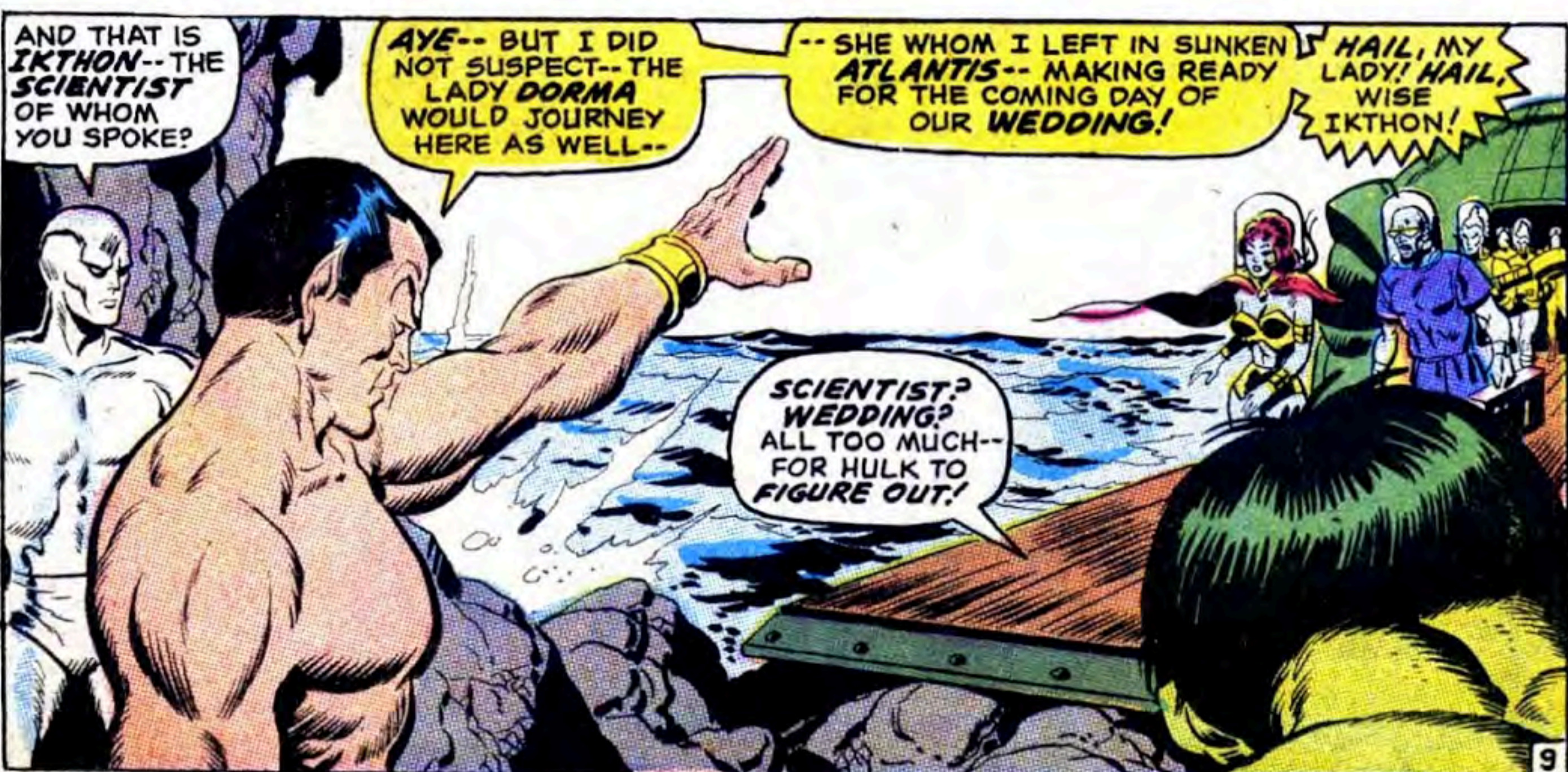
IT MUST BE-- THE ONES WHOM WE AWAIT!

EVEN NOW, MY BELT RECEIVES THE PROPER SIGNAL!

SOMETHING COMING UP-- OUT THERE IN THE WATER!



DO NOT ATTACK, HULK! IT IS-- FRIENDS!



AND THAT IS IKTHON-- THE SCIENTIST OF WHOM YOU SPOKE?

AYE-- BUT I DID NOT SUSPECT-- THE LADY DORMA WOULD JOURNEY HERE AS WELL--

-- SHE WHOM I LEFT IN SUNKEN ATLANTIS-- MAKING READY FOR THE COMING DAY OF OUR WEDDING!

HAIL, MY LADY! HAIL, WISE IKTHON!

SCIENTIST? WEDDING? ALL TOO MUCH-- FOR HULK TO FIGURE OUT!



IKTHON TOLD ME OF YOUR MISSION, MY LOVE-- THOUGH YOU HAD COMMANDED HIM NOT TO!

AS IF A THOUSAND UNTOLD DANGERS COULD KEEP ME FROM YOUR SIDE IN TIME OF PERIL!

I-- DID NOT WISH TO MAR YOUR HAPPINESS-- YOUR SERENE BLISS!



BUT NOW-- THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE-- PERHAPS A WORLD TO SAVE!

WHERE IS THE AIR-BREATHERS' DEVIL-DEVICE?

COME-- I SHALL LEAD YOU TO IT!

NAMOR MASKS HIS LOVE FOR THE GIRL-- BEHIND AN IMPERIOUS TONE!

BUT I SENSE DEPTHS TO HIS FEELINGS-- BEYOND MEN'S KEN!



MY PRINCE-- BEHOLD! A FLYING VESSEL!

IT SEEMS-- FAMILIAR-- FROM CHARTS WE HAVE STUDIED--!



AS WELL IT SHOULD BE, ATLANTEAN!

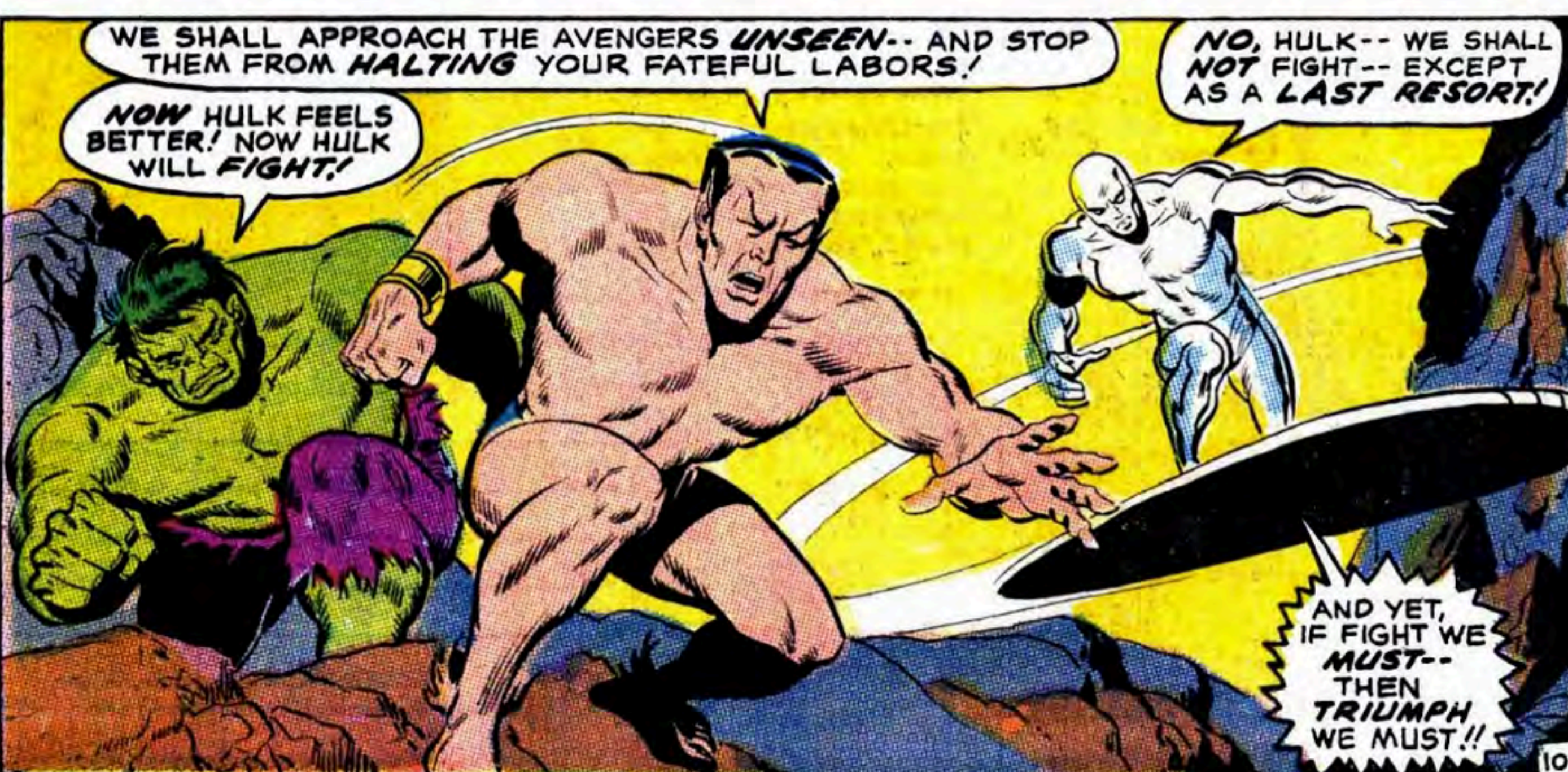
SUCH IS THE DESIGN OF THE AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO-- THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!



I HAD NOT COLINTED ON SUCH POWERFUL OPPOSITION SO SOON!

WHILE YOU, MY PRINCE--?

IKTHON-- PROCEED WITH YOUR TASK WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED!



WE SHALL APPROACH THE AVENGERS UNSEEN-- AND STOP THEM FROM HALTING YOUR FATEFUL LABORS!

NOW HULK FEELS BETTER! NOW HULK WILL FIGHT!

NO, HULK-- WE SHALL NOT FIGHT-- EXCEPT AS A LAST RESORT!

AND YET, IF FIGHT WE MUST-- THEN TRIUMPH WE MUST!!

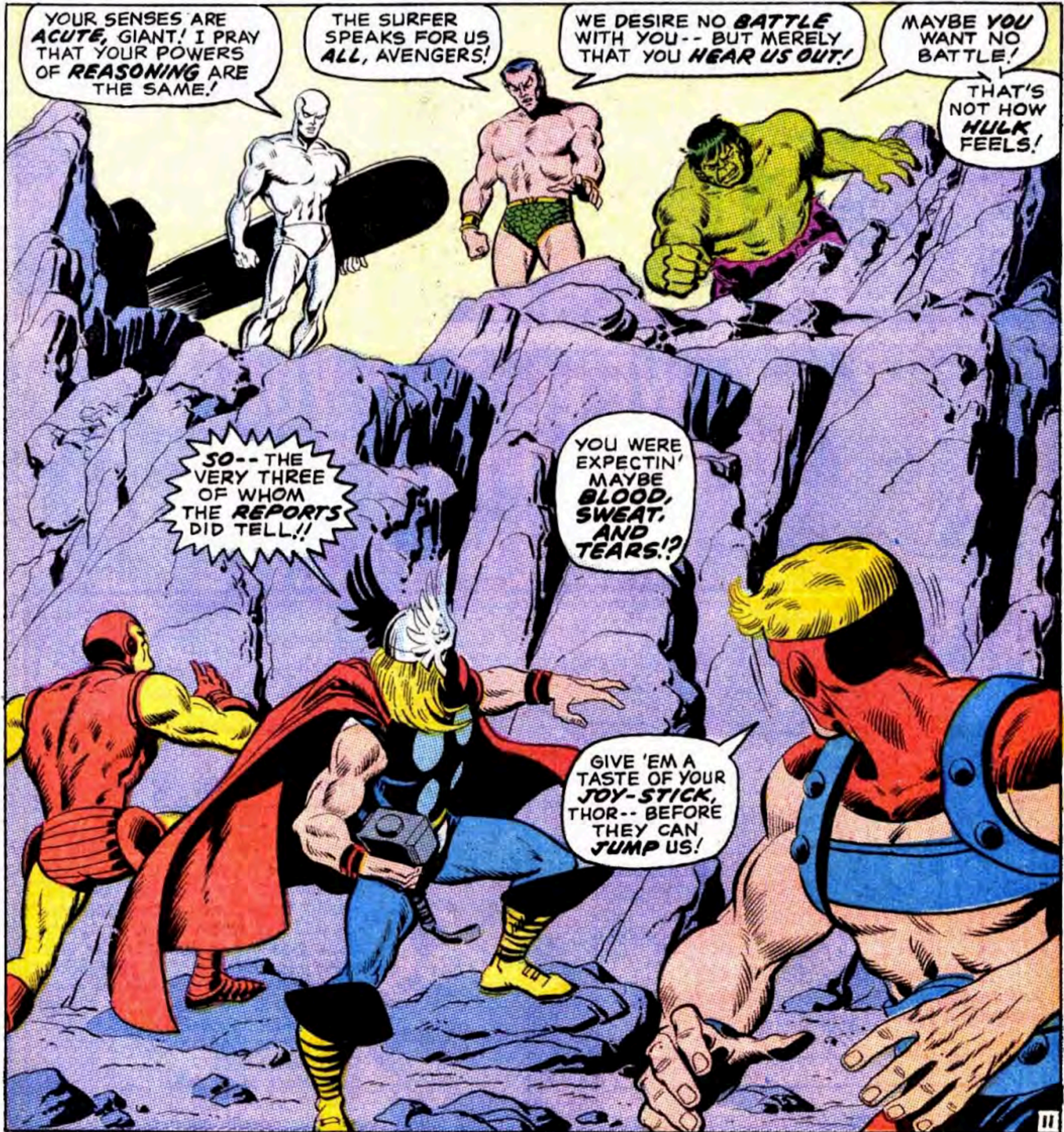


OUR GOAL BE PAST YON **RIDGE**-- AND YET 'TIS WELL WE DID LAND **HERE!**

IF YOU MEAN "LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP"-- WHY DON'T YOU JUST **SAY IT, THUNDER GOD?**

THE PRUDENT MAN DOETH EVER USE HIS **EYES**, ERE HE DOETH PLUNGE INTO THE FRAY!

SPEAKIN' OF **LOOKING**, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS-- I CAN PRACTICALLY **FEEL** SOME EYES ON US **RIGHT NOW!**



YOUR SENSES ARE **ACUTE**, GIANT! I PRAY THAT YOUR POWERS OF **REASONING** ARE THE SAME!

THE SURFER SPEAKS FOR US **ALL**, AVENGERS!

WE DESIRE NO **BATTLE** WITH YOU-- BUT MERELY THAT YOU **HEAR US OUT!**

MAYBE YOU WANT NO **BATTLE!**

THAT'S NOT HOW **HULK** FEELS!

SO-- THE VERY THREE OF WHOM THE **REPORTS** DID TELL!!

YOU WERE EXPECTIN' MAYBE **BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS!?**

GIVE 'EM A TASTE OF YOUR **JOY-STICK**, THOR-- BEFORE THEY CAN **JUMP US!**

NAY, GOLIATH--
FOR, VERILY,
THERE BE **MORE**
HERE THAN THE
EYE DOTH SEE!

NAMOR! SURFER!
GIVE US **REASONS**
WHY THOU DIDST
INVADE THIS ISLE--

YOU ACT **WISELY**,
ASGARDIAN, TO
HOLD YOUR **WRATH**
THUS IN CHECK!

I **SHALL**
GIVE YOU
REASONS
ENOUGH--
AND **GOOD**
ONES!

BAH! IT'S ALL A **TRICK!**
IS **HULK** THE ONLY ONE
WHO CAN **SEE** IT?

HULK--
LISTEN
TO ME--!

NO! HULK
IS ALL THRU
LISTENING!



-- THIS MENACING
A DEVICE WHICH MAY
IMPROVE THE LOT
OF ALL MANKIND--
AYE, EVEN THAT OF
YOUR **OWN** SEA-
BORN RACE!



**TIME TO
FIGHT!**

**TIME TO
SMASH!!**



OKAY-- SO MUCH FOR THE PEACE FEELERS, TROOPS!

NOW IT'S TIME FOR ONE'A THOSE-- HEY, WHAT DO YOU CALL THEM THINGS, SHELL HEAD?

A PREVENTIVE STRIKE, BIG MAN-- AND I'M WITH YOU

HOLD, AVENGERS!



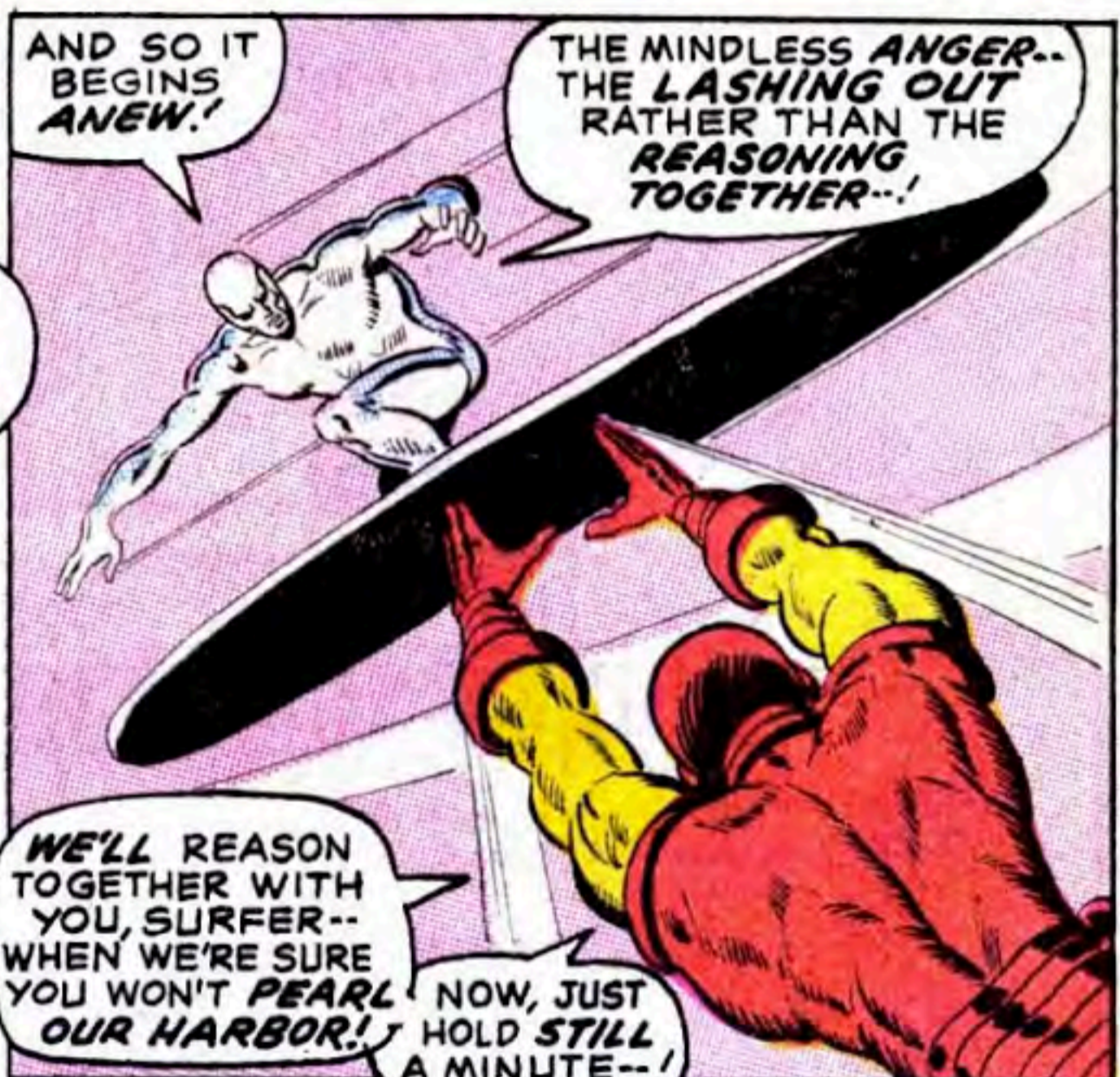
WE CAME NOT TO DESTROY, BUT MERELY TO--

UNNNH!

TELL US ALL ABOUT IT, FISH-MAN--

--WHEN YA WAKE UP!

THAM!



AND SO IT BEGINS ANEW!

THE MINDLESS ANGER-- THE LASHING OUT RATHER THAN THE REASONING TOGETHER--!

WE'LL REASON TOGETHER WITH YOU, SURFER-- WHEN WE'RE SURE YOU WON'T PEARL OUR HARBOR!

NOW, JUST HOLD STILL A MINUTE--!



HAH! THOR IS TOO SCARED-- EVEN TO FIGHT BACK!

NOT SO, MONSTER!

MY MIND BUT SOUGHT A BETTER WAY-- A LESS VIOLENT WAY!

THEN SO BE IT!



YET, IF THERE BE NONE--



BUT-- MAY! THERE BE NAUGHT TO BE GAINED BY THE CLAMOR OF COMBAT!

WE MUST HALT THIS BATTLE, ERE--

WORDS! WORDS!



HULK IS SICK OF WORDS!!

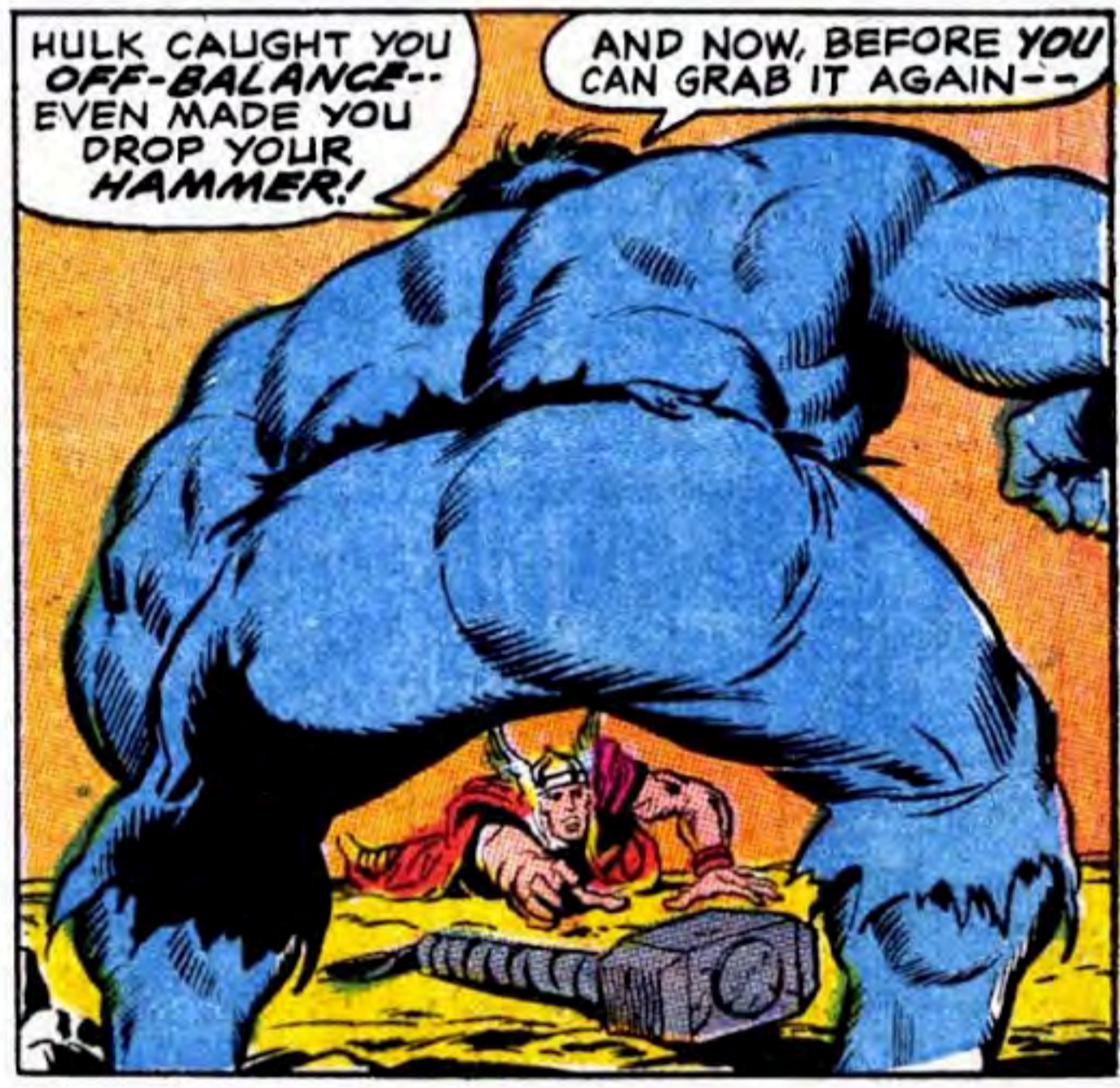
WUMRIP!



AND-- HULK IS SICK OF YOU!!

SLAM!

RAM!



HULK CAUGHT YOU OFF-BALANCE-- EVEN MADE YOU DROP YOUR HAMMER!

AND NOW, BEFORE YOU CAN GRAB IT AGAIN--



-- HULK WILL-- HUNH?

IT'S JUST A LITTLE THING-- BUT HULK CAN'T LIFT IT-- CAN'T BUDGE IT!

NONE MAY WIELD SACRED MJOLNIR, MAN-BRUTE-- NONE SAVE THE RIGHTFUL SON OF ODIN!

MAYBE NOT-- BUT HULK WON'T LET YOU HAVE IT, EITHER!



-- THEN, FIGHT IS EVEN AGAIN!

AYE, AND MORE THAN EVEN, HULK!

FOR IN A MERE SIXTY SECONDS, THOR SHALL BECOME ONCE MORE-- DR. DON BLAKE!

AND THEN-- YOUR BRUTE STRENGTH SHALL SEAL MY DOOM!



WHILE, A DIZZYING DISTANCE OVERHEAD--

GOT YOU!!

NOW WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THIS THING--!

THERE CAN BE NO DISCUSSION



-- WHILE YOU WOULD USE VIOLENCE TO ATTAIN YOUR ENDS!



AND YET-- ARE WE THREE ANY BETTER?

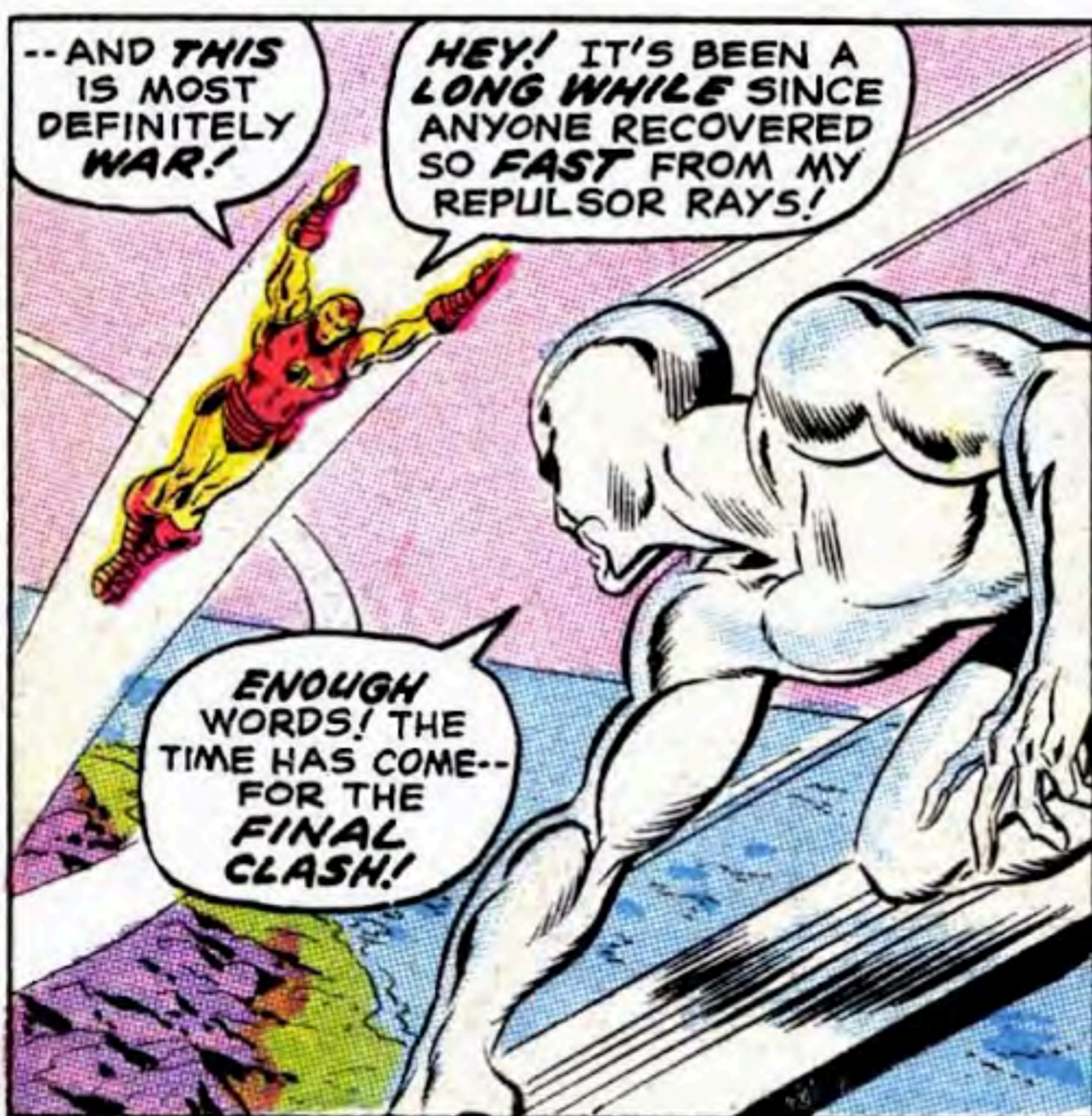
HAVE WE NOT USED THE THREAT OF NAKED FORCE, JUST AS --

SORRY TO ZAP YOU WHILE YOU'RE PLAYING SOCRATES, SPACEMAN!

BUT LIKE THEY SAY, WAR IS HELL--

ARRHH!

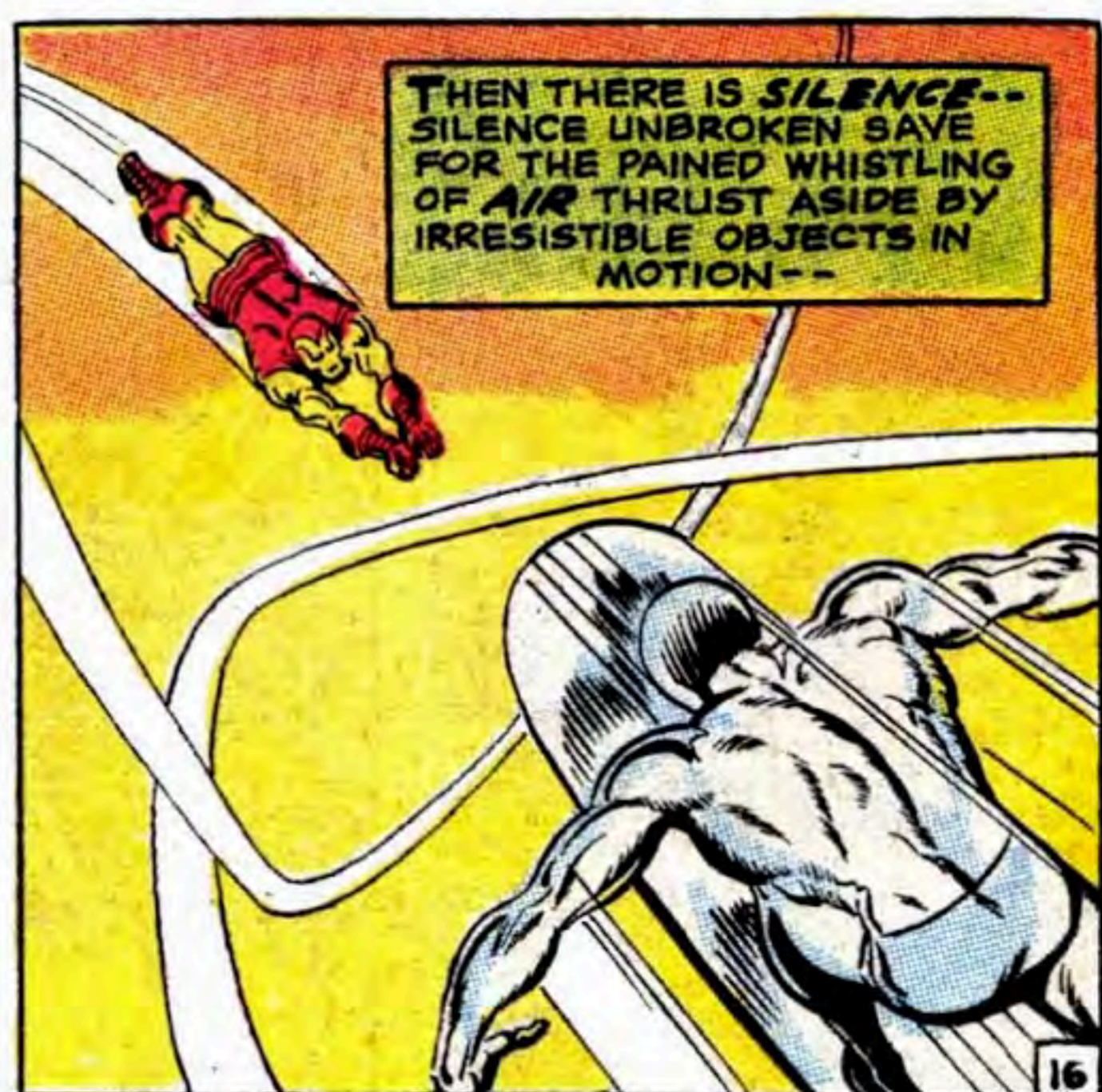
ZLAK!



-- AND THIS IS MOST DEFINITELY WAR!

HEY! IT'S BEEN A LONG WHILE SINCE ANYONE RECOVERED SO FAST FROM MY REPULSOR RAYS!

ENOUGH WORDS! THE TIME HAS COME-- FOR THE FINAL CLASH!



THEN THERE IS SILENCE-- SILENCE UNBROKEN SAVE FOR THE PAINED WHISTLING OF AIR THRUST ASIDE BY IRRESISTIBLE OBJECTS IN MOTION--

THEN, WITH A SOUND LIKE SOME SUDDEN SONIC BOOM--THE TWO AIRBORNE JUGGERNAUTS COME TOGETHER

-- AND TWO FORMS-- STUNNED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS BY THE SHEER, IMMEASURABLE IMPACT OF COLLISION-- PLUMMET FROM THE HEAVENS LIKE WOUNDED EAGLES--!

WHAT IN BLAZES KINDA NOISE WAS THAT?

YOUR FRAIL HUMAN EARS ARE MORE DELICATE THAN MINE, AVENGER!

THUS, WHILE YOU STAND THUS STUNNED-- NAMOR STRIKES!

MMFFF!

I AM NOT PROUD OF WHAT I HAVE DONE-- TO FELL AN UNPREPARED FOE!

BUT YOU WILL COMPREHEND MY REASONS WHEN--

BULL, FISH-MAN!

I SAID BULL!

YOU ARE A FAR MIGHTIER OPPONENT THAN I WOULD EVER HAVE EXPECTED, GIANT ONE!

STILL, NAMOR MUST TRIUMPH-- AND SO NAMOR SHALL TRIUMPH!

BUT THERE IS NO ANSWER-- NO ANSWER AT ALL--!



BY THE WREATHED HORN OF PROTEUS!

THE ONE CALLED GOLIATH-- IS DROWNING!!



THUS, THOUGH IT MAY MEAN WE MUST FIGHT ONCE MORE-- WITH THE OUTCOME STILL IN DOUBT--

I CANNOT-- I WILL NOT SUFFER SO VALIANT A FOE TO PERISH!



HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER FORCES NOW AFOOT ON THE ISLAND-- ONES WITHOUT SUPER-POWERS--!

GET SET, MEN! WE CAN'T LET THE AVENGERS DO ALL OUR WORK FOR US!

WE'LL OCCUPY THE STATION ALL BY OUR LONESOMES!

SIR-- THERE'S ARMED GUYS IN FRONT OF IT-- BLUE GUYS!



NOBLE IKTHON-- THE MEN WITHOUT GROW RESTLESS-- ALMOST AS IF THEY SENSE--

NOTHING MUST GO WRONG NOW-- WHEN I'M SO CLOSE--!



OPEN FIRE!!

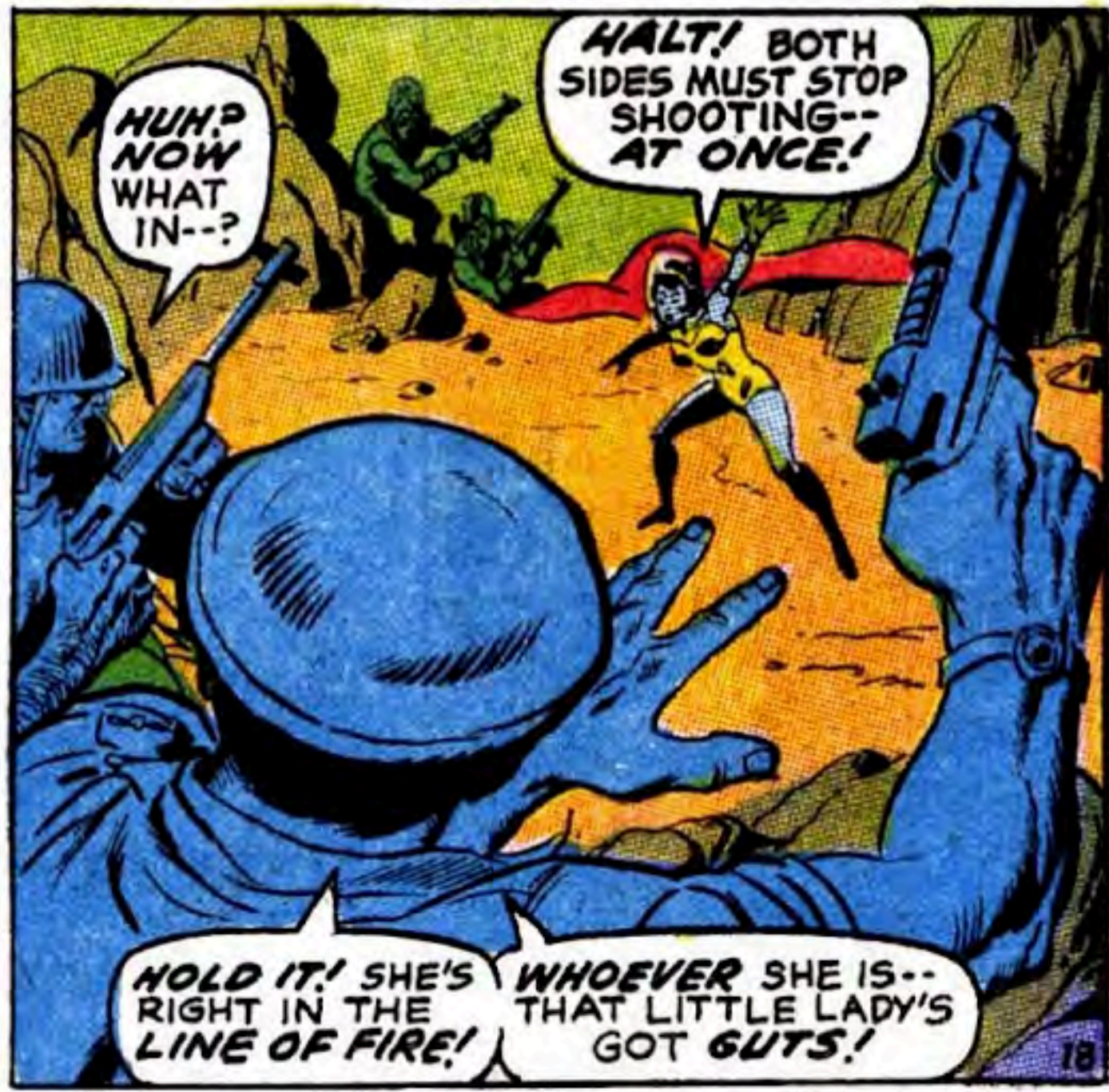
PAKKA PAKKA



NO! IT MUST NOT BE! I NEED ONLY A FEW MOMENTS-- A FEW MORE MOMENTS--!

THEN -- I SHALL GIVE THEM TO YOU--

--OR ELSE I SHALL DIE!!



HUH? NOW WHAT IN--?

HALT! BOTH SIDES MUST STOP SHOOTING-- AT ONCE!

HOLD IT! SHE'S RIGHT IN THE LINE OF FIRE!

WHOEVER SHE IS-- THAT LITTLE LADY'S GOT GUTS!



IT IS FOR YOUR SAKE THAT WE ACT-- AS WELL AS OUR OWN!

YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! YOU MUST!

